



APG NEWS

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Army debuts game-based SHARP training

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Service

In April, a new Army training videogame will put company, battalion and brigade commanders in the hot seat to deal with sexual assault and harassment in their ranks.

The ELITE-SHARP Command Team Trainer is an interactive video game that made its debut April 1, just in time for Sexual Assault Prevention Month. The game will post on the Army's MILGAMING website at **milgaming.army.mil**, alongside the already successful "ELITE Lite counseling tool" on which it was based.

The ELITE, or "Emergent Leader Immersive Training Environment" platform has been used by the Army as a counseling tool for about 18 months. ELITE Lite Counseling is used to train junior officers and noncommissioned officers to conduct more effective counseling. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, has used the ELITE Lite Counseling application exten-

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20th CBRNE Soldiers promote physical fitness at Roye-Williams Elementary family night.

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The Army Substance Abuse Program challenges myths about alcohol use.

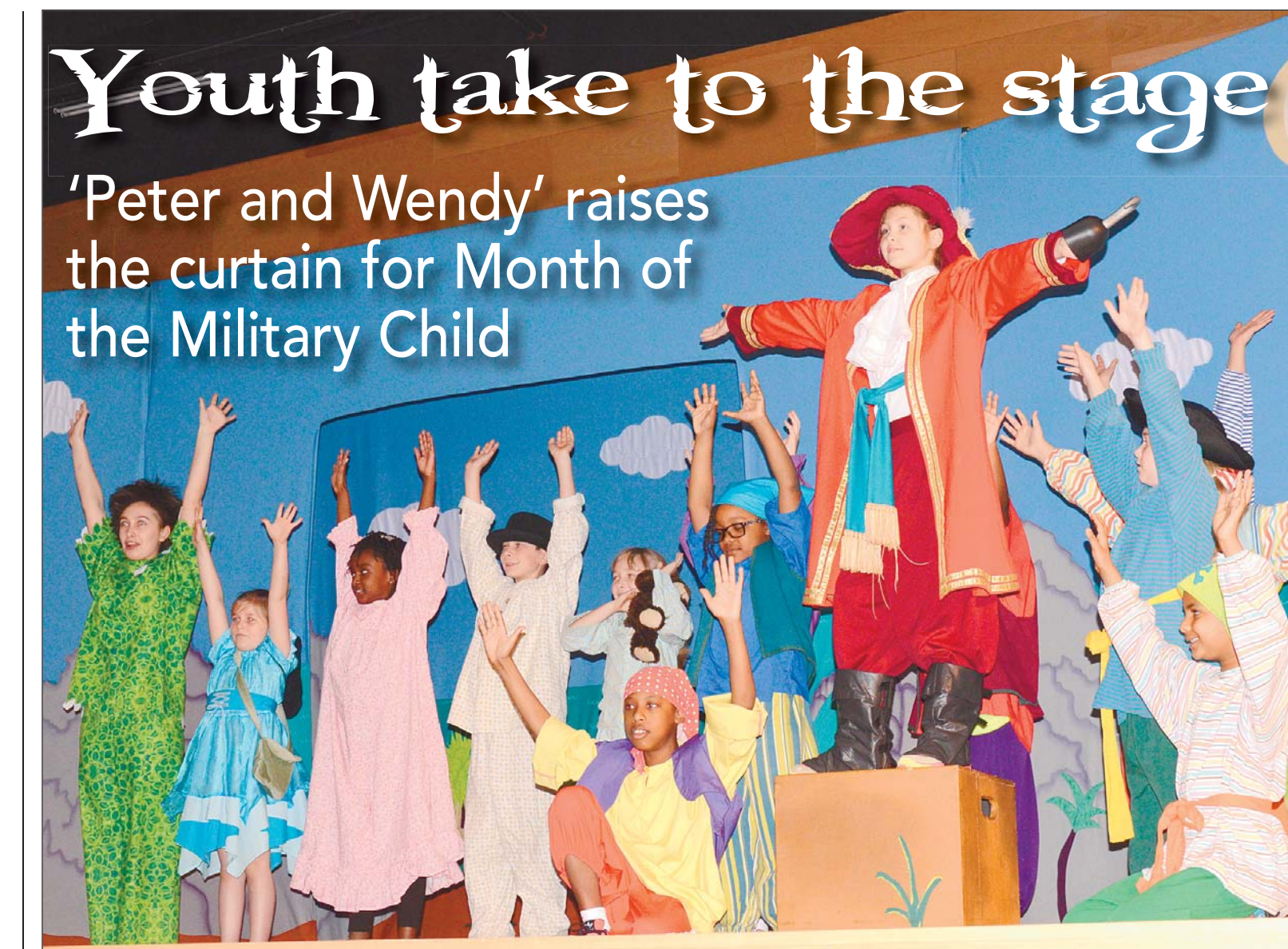
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An ensemble comprised of APG youth join together to perform the final scene of the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Peter and Wendy" at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen) April 2.

Story and photos by **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Leading off several Month of the Military Child activities planned at Aberdeen Proving Ground in April, more than 30 APG youth and aspiring thespians took to the stage, presenting two public performances of the Missoula Children's Theatre, or MCT, production "Peter and Wendy" at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen) April 2.

Child and Youth Services, Instructional Program Specialist Shirelle Womack said APG SKIES Unlimited hosted MCT for a week-long residency to honor the Month of the Military Child, which recognizes the sacrifices military children make every day.

"This is kind of our kick-off for Month of the Military Child," Womack said, adding it was the first year MCT worked with APG youth.

"It's heartwarming to watch the children

perform. The shy kids tend to become the most outgoing kids by the end of the show," she said.

MCT tours year-round across the globe to bring the live theater experience to children aged kindergarten through 12th grade. APG auditions for Peter and Wendy were held the week of March 28, and every child who auditioned was cast in the musical. The week-long residency included rehearsals as

See **PLAY**, page 17

Community college hosts Futures11

Conference teaches high school students about colleges, careers

Story and photos by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground civilians joined community members to provide insight to high school juniors about life after graduation during the sixth annual Futures11 conference at Harford Community College March 30.

More than 500 students from Harford County Public Schools' magnet and signature programs attended the conference. Workshop topics included STEM opportunities; internships and apprenticeships; college admissions and financing; entrepreneurship, stress management; scholarship searches; and more.

Event organizer Robert Limpert, supervisor of

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Former ECBC civilian Lester Hitch, shows C. Milton Wright High School students, from back, Anthony Kennard, Allie Nesbit, Makenna Salsbury, and Kenny Watts an item that was created using a 3-D printer during a Futures11 workshop at Harford Community College, March 30.

AMC deputy challenges women to achieve



Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Attitude, personal growth and other factors affecting women in the workplace were highlighted during the installation's 26th Annual National Women's History Month observance at the Mallette Training Facility March 30.

The day included morning and afternoon training sessions and vendor displays and a mid-morning observance in the auditorium.

The U.S. Army Material Systems Analysis Activity, also known as AMSAA, and the APG Federal Women's Program, or FEW, hosted the program that included a variety of training workshops, vendor displays, and remarks from AMSAA

See **WOMEN'S**, page 17

Lisha H. Adams, a member of the Senior Executive Service and executive deputy to the Army Materiel Command Commander, Gen. Dennis L. Via, talks career challenges for women during the 26th Annual Team APG celebration of National Women's History Month at the Mallette Training Facility March 30.

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STREET TALK

Military children move more often than their civilian counterparts.

What are some of the positives about moving from place to place?

"I love getting to experience different cultures, instead of staying in one spot for my whole life. And I love meeting new people too, because you'd never know you'd be friends with someone like this or someone from another country. It's pretty cool."



Alexandra Eure, 15

"You get to meet new people and get to make new friends. One of the places I want to live is California because it's beautiful, other than the traffic of course."



Julian Smith, 15

"You get to make new friends."



L'Erin George, 9

"We get to travel and see the beauty of different places, and we get to make new friends."



Marquise Eure, 10

"You get to make new friends, so you get to experience new things and different places. You won't be stuck in one place; you can just go experience the world, how people are, and the food."



Karisia Ocasio, 12

Know left and right limits of political participation

By **CHERISH GILMORE**
Army Materiel Command

As the presidential election nears, personnel should re-visit the regulations that govern military and all federal civilian employees concerning their participation in the political process. The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of federal civilian employees, including Department of the Army Civilians. The law was amended in 1993 to allow most employees to engage in certain types of political activity while in their personal capacity. DOD Directive 1344.10 outlines rules governing political activity by members of the armed forces. "Neither the Hatch Act nor the DOD Directive 1344.10 restrict civilian employees and military members from exercising their right to vote," said Lawrence J. Wilde, Army Materiel Command's ethics counselor.

The restrictions pertain to participation in partisan political activities.

"We encourage voting," said Wilde. "Know the left and right limits of your participation in partisan political activities. If you'd like to become involved with a political campaign, it's a good idea to seek advice from your legal office first."

Understanding what restrictions can apply depends on your status as a federal employee. The Hatch Act classifies employees into two groups: a "less restricted" group and "further restricted" group.

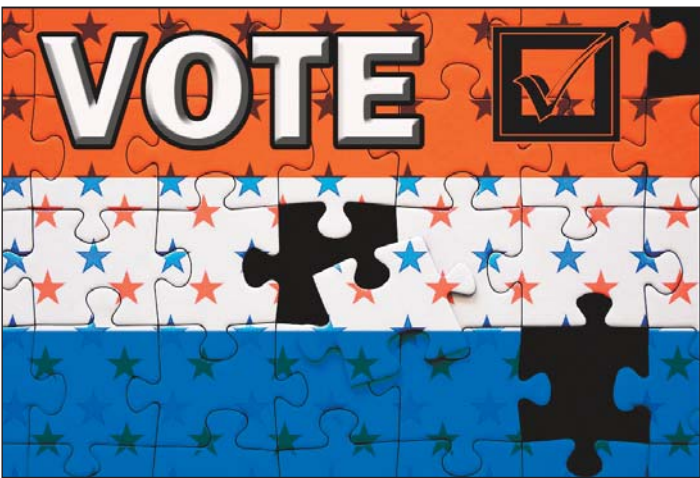
"The vast majority of DOD employees are classified as less-restricted employees," explained Wilde. "Further restricted employees include career senior executive service employees, political appointees, and employees of certain federal agencies like the National Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Defense Intelligence Agency."

Less restricted employees may actively participate in partisan political activities such as making phone calls for a candidate in a partisan election, working for a political party to encourage voting, or handing out campaign literature.

The Hatch Act dictates, however, that none of these activities may be done while on duty or by using their official position, in a federal building or vehicle, while wearing a federal uniform or insignia, or by using official resources, like computers.

"Although employees may contribute money to candidates, no federal employee, military or civilian, may solicit or accept campaign contributions at any time," said Wilde. "So, for example, if a civilian employee is working the phone bank for a candidate, they may not read any part of a script that solicits contributions even though the employee is off duty and totally anonymous to the potential voter."

This also applies in the world of social media. "Employees may not forward by email or social media any websites or posts that solicit or contain a link for campaign



donations," said Wilde.

The rules for further restricted civilian employees and military personnel are stricter. Both must refrain from any political activity that could associate DOD with a partisan political candidate, group or activity.

"This means that military personnel may not campaign for a political candidate in a partisan election, speak at a partisan political gathering, hand out campaign literature, or solicit campaign contributions," said Wilde. "They may not place a political sign on the lawn of their government quarters. On social media, they may follow, friend or like a party or a candidate, but may not post, forward, share, or re-Tweet links and comments from them. If a member of the military or a further restricted civilian employee 'likes' a candidate or political group, the privacy settings on social media sites should be changed to preclude others from seeing these preferences."

Wilde singled out four rules to keep handy for all federal employees and military members:

- Do not solicit campaign donations on or off duty.
- Do not wear campaign buttons on duty, in a federal facility, or in uniform.
- Do not forward partisan political articles, websites, or political cartoons while on duty, in a federal building, or using a government computer.
- Do not invite subordinates to political events, or use your rank or official position in any way to influence the political process.

Violations of the Hatch Act are investigated by the Justice Department of Office of Special Counsel. Punishments include the full range of administrative disciplinary action, to include removal. Members of the military may face discipline for violating DOD Directive 1433.10 and pertinent provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Keep storm drains clear for those downstream

Lawn care and fertilizer can have impact on water pollution levels

DPW Water Team

The routine overuse of lawn fertilizers and weed killers can harm streams, rivers, and ponds. Sole reliance on chemicals is no longer recommended for maintaining a beautiful lawn. Certain grasses can filter pollutants (fertilizers, herbicides, sediment) and some types can control weeds and require less fertilizer and water. Here are some tips:

Mowing

- Don't mow too close to the ground; taller grass produces deeper roots and controls weeds.
- Practice "grasscycling", and leave clippings on the lawn to provide natural fertilization (do not blow them into ditches or streams).
- Do not mow wet grass; this causes clumping.
- Use composted yard waste as mulch and soil conditioner.

Fertilizers

Fertilizers contain nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that can harm water quality by causing undesirable plants to grow

in streams and ponds, blocking oxygen from the fish. Fertilizers high in nitrates (nitrogen) are more likely to enter streams because they are released more quickly. Here are some best management practices:

- Apply fertilizers according to label directions. Do not apply fertilizer:
 - When the ground is frozen.
 - Before or after heavy rain or irrigation
 - During cold weather lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Directly into, or near, streams, ponds, or ditches.
- Minimize application rates on slopes.
- Use fertilizers labeled "slowly-available nitrogen" on sandy soils since they are less likely to enter streams.
- Base fertilizer applications on a representative soil test that shows the amounts of nutrients in the soil, waiting three to four weeks after the last fertilization.
- Aerate compacted soil to aid incorporation and reduce runoff.
- Maintain a vegetated buffer zone between frequently fertilized lawns and streams to prevent pollution and provide uptake of nutrients.
- Water carefully to prevent runoff and leaching.
- Water in the early morning for optimal results.

Natural methods of lawn care in conjunction with chemicals can produce a healthy lawn and protect water quality.

For further information, contact APG Directorate of Public Works—Water Team at 410-436-3808.

See Something

Cut along dotted lines and fold in middle for use as wallet reference Card.

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- Discuss FP measures, capabilities, or posture.
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Soldiers support local school’s fitness night

Story and photos by
RICK SCAVETTA
U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground

When Sgt. 1st Class Robert Anderson learned that Roye-Williams Elementary School in Havre de Grace needed volunteers for a fitness event, he jumped at the chance.

Anderson, 36, an explosive ordnance disposal noncommissioned officer from Ironwood, Michigan, is among a group of Soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Ground who volunteer in the local community. At Roye-Williams, where Anderson’s daughter Isabella, 9, attends third grade, he showed children proper jumping jacks, pushups and other cardiovascular enhancing exercises.

“This is stuff we learned in our careers about being healthy,” said Anderson, an operations NCO with the 20th CBRNE [Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives] Command. “We have to support our kids being active and it’s important to give back to the community.”

Dozens of children, parents and teachers took part in the April 1 event, dubbed “Family Fun and Fitness Night.” First was Zumba, then jump rope, yoga and other activities. Standing out, in their drab-green camouflage uniforms, were Anderson and Sgt. 1st Class Edward Swiger, whose daughter Olivia, 11, is a Roye-Williams fifth-grader.

The youth fitness event coincides with two key awareness events in April: Month of the Military Child and National Volunteer Month. Swiger, 44, of Doylestown, Ohio, first volunteered while at Fort Drum, New York, mentoring special needs children.

“Ever since then I’ve been extremely passionate about volunteering,” Swiger said. “This also makes us stand out in the community, people see us, see the uniform and know we are here to help.”



(Above, left) Roye-Williams Elementary fifth-grader Olivia Swiger, 11, front, follows the lead of her father, 20th CBRNE Command Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Edward Swiger, right, during the Family Fun and Fitness Night at Roye-Williams in Havre de Grace, April 1. The Swigers were joined by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Anderson and his daughter Isabella, 9, in the background. The 20th CBRNE Soldiers volunteered to help show Roye-Williams students how to stay physically fit. (Above, right) Sgt. 1st Class Robert Anderson, an operations NCO with the 20th CBRNE Command, and his daughter Isabella, show off their Zumba moves at the Family Fun and Fitness Night, April 1.

Community relations is a top priority for Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, commander of U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and APG’s senior leader, and Col. James E. Davis, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. As first sergeant for 20th CBRNE’s headquarters and headquarters company, Swiger works with garrison enlisted leaders to make sure APG Soldiers support community events.

Soldiers from the 20th CBRNE also read to children in local school and take part in commemorative events like Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Swiger said. This April, 20th CBRNE

Soldiers will also attend the Edgewood Middle School safety and security event. Swiger said that while he was in combat zones overseas, he often took part in humanitarian efforts – sort of like volunteering to help local communities while deployed, he said.

“Now, I have a chance to do something for our own kids,” said Swiger, a father of five who has spent 22 years in uniform. “And every chance I get to spend with one of my kids, I cherish it.”


Headquartered at APG South (Edgewood), the 20th CBRNE Commandhas units on 19 posts in 16 states. The unit’s Soldiers combat chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive

threats worldwide. Its EOD Soldiers often work with heavy gear during lengthy field operations that require them to have both strength and stamina.

“It’s nice to [have] Soldiers here to explain what they do and how fit they have to be,” said Sarah Baker, a first grade teacher Roye-Williams. “We wanted to get the kids moving, promote a healthy lifestyle and show them the different ways they can exercise.

After the success of the first fitness night, Roye-Williams will plan more, Baker said.

“We have a lots of military families and we’re so close to APG,” Baker said. “We’re glad they are a part of it.”



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Researchers explore future rotocraft tech

By **DAVID MCNALLY**
U.S. Army Research Laboratory

The U.S. Army is moving ahead with research on potential new component-level technologies for future rotorcraft.

A team from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory completed the first-ever live-fire test of a rotor blade with individual blade control technology in mid-January.

Researchers fired three shots representative of typical ground fire on a 7-foot span, 10-inch chord rotor blade section with a 4-foot long Continuous Trailing Edge Flap, or CTEF, at ARL’s Survivability and Lethality Analysis Directorate’s Airbase Experimental Facility 6 and 7.

“The purpose of this program is to generate some limited ballistic data that could reduce risk and/or encourage Future Vertical Lift designers to consider CTEF technology,” said Brian G. Smith, ARL-SLAD aviation analysis team leader.

“We wanted to know what would happen to vehicle performance, or the rotor blade structural integrity, if it is hit by live fire in combat,” said Matthew L. Wilbur, ARL Vehicle Technology Directorate senior research engineer working at the NASA Langley Research Center. “This technology may provide reduced noise signature, reduced vibration, enhanced rotor performance and also offer a lighter and more efficient technology for flight control of the helicopter.”

The CTEF experiments are being conducted under the Science and Technology Red Teaming initiative sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, or ASA (ALT). This initiative provides early, in-depth vulnerability assessments of emerging technologies across laboratory, table-top, and live field environments. Specifically, the live fire CTEF experiments explore the ballistic vulnerability of emerging individual blade control technologies and promote the development of components that are threat ready.

A team from ASA (ALT) visited researchers March 4 to observe another round of test firings and to speak with researchers.

“We want to understand how this technology might be applied to future aircraft,” said Todd M. Turner, ASA (ALT) Air Portfolio director. “Our goal is to design, develop and demonstrate



(Left) Army research engineer Matthew L. Wilbur, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (left), explains the experiment to a team from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Air Portfolio at Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Phillips Army Airfield, March 4.

Photo by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM

(Below) An artist’s conception of a future vertical lift aircraft concept.

U.S. Army illustration

the next generation of technologies that will provide unmatched vertical lift aircraft performance to meet future operation capabilities.”

Investments made by the ASA (ALT) Air Portfolio fund research in advanced air vehicles, aircraft and occupant survivability and manned/unmanned teaming.

The CTEF experiment represents a leap in technology from an active rotor standpoint, Wilbur said.

“The actuators used in the CTEF are not your typical motors – they are solid-state devices that change shape when an electric current is applied,” Wilbur said. “They work great, but if they are damaged they tend to short circuit, which means that the remaining healthy actuators no longer receive the power they need to function. To defeat this failure mode, we devised a method where each actuator has a small fuse in-line with its connection to the power source. For this particular test, that meant fabricating a blade in which each actuator was individually wired and the fuses were external to the blade at the point where the electrical power was distributed.”

Wilbur said in a follow-on activity they hope to start later this year, small surface-mount fuses will be embedded directly on the actuators, so that no outside electrical power distribution or extensive wiring will be necessary.



“The big active-rotor breakthrough associated with this was the fact that the insertion of the fuses in-line with each actuator worked perfectly,” he said. “We acquired high-speed blade performance data during each of the shots, and in each case it is clear that the blade continued to actuate with no degradation in performance other than that attributable to the loss of the damaged actuators.”

Funding to conduct this research is

the enabling factor, he said.

“When we don’t have money, we do a lot of analysis and we come up with great ideas, but then at some point you have to start building some hardware and sometimes that gets a little harder to do when there’s not enough money flowing,” he said. “Without the Red Teaming funding this critical vulnerability assessment would not happen early in the applied research phase.”



Photo by Rachel Ponder, APG News

Purple Parade celebrates military children

Despite rainy weather outdoors, the Bayside Child Development Center continued its kickoff to Month of the Military Child with an indoor parade, April 1. The children marched through the center hallways wearing purple hats, blowing noise makers and waving streamers. Special guests included APG Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Mike Lupacchino; Child, Youth and School Services Coordinator Ruth Strauss, and parents. Purple is the designated color for Month of the Military Child, because it symbolizes all branches of the military. Throughout April, APG CDCs and youth centers will host special events in honor of military children.

From right, 5-year-olds Alexander Ortiz, Ryleigh Thiebaud and Alexis Kelley march in the CDC Purple Parade, April 1.

AMC executive deputy visits ECBC

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

The top civilian official from the Army command responsible for equipping, sustaining and enabling the warfighter learned more about the mission and capabilities of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center March 31.

Lisha H. Adams, executive deputy to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, toured ECBC's Advanced Chemistry Laboratory and got a first-hand look at the latest technology being developed by the center.

The tour included an overview briefing from the center's senior leadership, a threat briefing, and a tour of the Synthesis Laboratory, which is designed to analyze and evaluate emerging chemical and biological threats. The tour concluded with a hands-on familiarization of three examples of cutting-edge chemical-biological defense technology: the Integrated Respiratory and Eye Protection Scarf, the Tactical Biological Generation II Detector, and a biological spore-killing decontamination gel.

"Ms. Adams' visit was valuable to ECBC because that's how our command leadership learns about our unique contribution to protecting the warfighter," said Dr. Peter Emanuel, ECBC Biosciences Division chief and acting Research and Technology director. "She gained an appreciation of the depth of our expertise and our dedication to safety."

Director of Program Integration Dr. Paul Tanenbaum, added, "Ms. Adams was also able to learn about the extent to which we leverage our effectiveness by



Edgewood Chemical Biological Center photo
Dave Caretti, an ECBC research physiologist, shows Lisha Adams, Executive Deputy to the Army Materiel Command's Commanding General, the Integrated Respiratory and Eye Protection Scarf, or IREPS, which he co-invented.

collaborating with other Army agencies, federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, research universities, and technology companies."

The directors accomplished their

goal of showing Adams the value of ECBC's contributions to the nation's defense. Summing up her visit, Adams said, "ECBC truly is the foundation of the nation's chemical and biological defense. I was impressed to learn

about the breadth of their mission and expertise, and to see their dedication to putting the latest chemical biological defense technology into the hands of our warfighters. The nation is safer for the work they do."

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); or OPM 630- B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Please contact Sue Campbell at 410-306-0266 or sue.a.campbell8.civ@mail.mil

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Diveley, Roberta R.	King, Sharon M.	Morrow, Patricia D.	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MORE ONLINE
More events can be seen at www.TeamAPG.com

events&town halls

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20

SPRING TECHNOLOGY EXPO

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, ECBC, Corporate Information Office, or CIO, and Federal Direct Access Expositions will host the APG Spring Technology EXPO 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326.

Attendance is open to all Department of Defense service members, civilians and contractors. Exhibitors of state-of-the-art technologies and innovations will include Accutech, Canon Solutions, Delmarva Engineering, Dell Inc., GSA, Kodak Alaris, Lexmark Government Solutions, Micron Technology, Panasonic, Planar Systems, SCI Technology, Tektronix, Vision Technologies, and much more.

For more information, contact Mary McCully ECBC CIO Acquisition Team, at 410-436-2625 or mary.p.mccully.civ@mail.mil or Donna Flemister of Federal Direct Access at 410-531-8559 or donna@fdaexpo.com.

TUESDAY APRIL 26

SHARP POETRY SLAM

The Army Test and Evaluation Command and Team APG SHARP will host A SHARP Poetry Slam at the Mallette Auditorium, Bldg. 6008 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

A Poetry Slam is a competition at which poets read or recite original work. These performances are then judged on a numeric scale by previously selected members of the audience. Participants will present Sexual Harassment and/or Sexual Assault themed poems focusing on such topics as prevention, culture change, intervention, awareness, and more. All poets are welcome, even those who have never even considered writing poetry before.

Personnel who attend will receive credit for the online SHARP Part II Annual Training. Certificates will be provided to attendees.

For more information, contact Jody Jackson at 443-861-9258 or Michcell Shultz at 410-278-0137.

SATURDAY MAY 14

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Retiree Appreciation Day is set for Saturday, May 14 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

The event will begin with registration at 8 a.m.

More details will follow.

For more information, contact Tom Shumate at thomas.s.shumate2.civ@mail.mil or 410-306-2303.

meetings&conferences

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27

DAU TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Defense Acquisition University campus at APG will host a VTC for the one-day hot topic training forum 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 6175 Guardian Gateway on APG with no cost to remote viewers. The symposium will be fed live from Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

This year's theme is "Strengthening Cost Consciousness, Professionalism, and Technical Excellence." Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics is the keynote speaker.

The event offers plenary and classroom training sessions tied to the Better Buying Power 3.0 initiatives. In a period of fiscal challenges and technological opportunities, the training will focus on learning hard skills - training in the latest acquisition policy, practices and techniques that attendees can take back to the workplace and apply. The symposium provides six Continuous Learning Points for continued DOD acquisition certification.

Seating is limited. To sign up, contact Ben Metcalfe at 410-272-9471 or email benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil or. For more information about the symposium, visit <http://dauaa.org/Symposium2016/Index.htm>

health&resiliency

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS UNAVAILABLE AT KUSAHC

Please be advised that Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is currently unable to administer smallpox vaccinations due to temporary non-availability. An announcement will be made when vaccinations are to be resumed.

For questions, call 410-278-5475.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD CLAIM REP VISIT

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has arranged for a claim representative from Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield to visit APG on Tuesday, April 12. The representative will be available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. The representative will be available from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on APCB South (Edgewood) at Bldg. E2800 (JPEOCBD), Rooms 103/104. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, contact Teri Wright

at 410-278-4331 or teresa.l.wright28.civ@mail.mil.

THURSDAY APRIL 14

YOGA CLASS

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a 50-minute Yoga class at the Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open to all of Team APG, the class will teach participants proper breathing techniques and poses to help balance out the stressors in life and the environment.

Participants must bring a mat and wear proper clothing.

For more information, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil.

TUESDAY APRIL 19

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFO SESSION

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host an Occupational Therapy Informational Session at Bldg. 6001, 2nd floor, room 224 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The session will explore the basics of occupational therapy and how it can help people across their lifespan participate in the things that they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities.

The session is open to civilians, contractors, and military. Non-C4ISR employees must bring their CAC to gain access to the building.

For more information, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil.

DENTAL CLINICS CLOSED

The APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) dental clinics will be closed, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sgt. Tracy Glover at 410-804-6805 or email tracy.s.glover4.mil@mail.mil.

THURSDAY APRIL 21

INSTALLATION HEALTH FAIR

APG will host an Installation Health Fair at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be vendors, prizes, vision screening, spinal scans, blood pressure checks, stress management, weight management, massage therapists, immunization education, financial wellness, tobacco cessation, activities and lots of health information from the community.

For more information, contact Sue Singh at 410-278-1771.

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For more information, contact Sgt. Tracy Glover at 410-804-6805 or email tracy.s.glover4.mil@mail.mil.

THURSDAY APRIL 28

LET’S MOVE IN THE COURTYARD CIRCUIT TRAINING & PRESCRIPTION TAKE-BACK EVENT

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a "Let's Move in the Courtyard Circuit Training" event sponsored by the APG Wellness Center at the C4ISR Complex Courtyard from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The weather is breaking and it is the perfect time to take advantage of our beautiful courtyard to get active. Activity is one of the major components of the Army Performance Triad-a healthy Base Initiative focusing on the importance of Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition as fundamental building blocks to maintain a Ready and Resilient military and civilian workforce.

Open to all members of Team APG, activities for the event may include, but are not limited to: jump roping, bosu ball burpees with an overhead press, medicine ball side throws, squats (jumps squats or standing squats), tire runs, step ups, walking/jogging/running drills around the courtyard, and walking lunges.

Information tables on sleep, activity, and nutrition will also be present.

Registration to participate in the circuit training is required to estimate equipment needed. Participants should arrive by 11:20 a.m. to walk through the activities and receive instructions on proper form.

Rain location will be the complex pavilion. Participants should bring a mat and wear proper clothing.

Contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil by April 21 to register.

During the same event, the Army Substance Abuse Program will be on hand to collect expired, unused, and unwanted prescription (RX) drugs and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines as part of the APG Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign. Collections will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about the Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign, contact Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013/3784 or cynthia.m.scott4.civ@mail.mil.

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THURSDAY MAY 12

EDGEWOOD DENTAL CLINIC

CLOSURE

The APG South (Edgewood) Dental Clinic will be closed Thursday, May 12. For more information, contact Sgt. Tracy Glover at tracy.s.glover4.mil@mail.mil.

THROUGH MID-2016

ARMY WELLNESS CENTER RELOCATED

As a result of ongoing renovations to Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the APG Army Wellness Center has relocated to the trailers directly across from the main KUSAHC building, near the Veterinary Treatment Facility.

For more information, contact the wellness center at 410-306-1024.

THROUGH MID-2016

KUSAHC OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RELOCATED

As a result of ongoing renovations to Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, occupational health services have relocated to the trailers directly across from the main KUSAHC building, near the Veterinary Treatment Facility.

For more information, contact occupational services at 410-278-1912/1913.

ONGOING

WEAR BLUE: RUN TO REMEMBER HARFORD COUNTY/APG

A Harford County/APG-based Wear Blue: Run to Remember community has been established, with ongoing meets the second Saturday of every month 8:30 a.m. at the Maryland and Pennsylvania Heritage Trail in Fallston.

Wear Blue: Run to Remember communities run, jog and walk in honor of the nation's fallen, fighting and families.

Those interested in participating in the run should meet at the Annie's Playground – Pavilion at 864 Smith Lane, Fallston, Maryland. Pets are allowed, but park rules do not allow retractable leashes.

All ability levels are welcome. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear blue.

Upcoming dates include:

- April 9

For more information, contact Robin Bruns at 910-987-6764 or brunsrd@yahoo.com.

ONGOING

2016 CPR & AED TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services has announced the CPR/AED class schedule for 2016. Classes are open to the entire APG community.

All APG North (Aberdeen) classes will be held at Bldg. 3147. All APG South (Edgewood) classes will be held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's North East Regional Training Center, located near the Edgewood (Wise Road) gate.

- **April 21** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **May 19** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **June 16** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **July 21** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Aug. 18** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Sept. 22** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Oct. 20** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Nov. 17** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Dec. 15** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Mike Slayman at 410-306-0566.

ONGOING

KUSAHC CLOSED FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic believes the key to being the premier health and readiness platform is a professionally-developed workforce, and reinvesting in employees is an investment to their service to APG.

As such, KUSAHC will close the first Wednesday of every month for training purposes until further notice.

For more information, visit <http://kusahc.narmc.amedd.army.mil/SitePages/Home.aspx> or www.facebook.com/KUSAHC.

miscellaneous

THROUGH FRIDAY APRIL 29

GARRISON TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

IMCOM has identified the need to develop our personnel with the right skills and enable them to execute our mission in the most effective ways possible as a top priority.

USAGAPG Workforce Development is currently supporting that initiative by providing our workforce with Career Program specific training, leadership training and seminars, performance management tools and resources along with professional development opportunities and support.

By completing the below Training Needs Assessment Survey, our office will be able to direct resources to areas of greatest demand and to continue to expand the quality training opportunities that is required to aid in organizational mission success.

The survey can be accessed until April 29 at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBDYNCL>.

For more information, contact Jill Brodbeck at 410-278-9917 or jill.m.brodbeck.civ@mail.mil.

ONGOING

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM

Harford Community College has announced a new cybersecurity program to prepare interested individuals – military and civilian – in an entry-level cybersecurity position.

The Cyber Defense Certificate program offers 39 credits, and prepares students for four industry-recognized certifications that include: Comp TIA's Net+, Security+, Linux+, and Cisco's CCENT. The program also awards credit for prior learning.

Classes are held at Harford Community College in the evening. Veterans and spouses are encouraged to apply. Enrollment for classes in the fall is currently underway.

For more information, contact Christine Brown at HCC at chbrown@harford.edu or 443-356-0363.

ONGOING

APG SOUTH 2016 WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The APG Garrison Directorate of Public Works has announced its APG South (Edgewood) 2016 water main flushing schedule.

The Edgewood DPW Waterworks Branch will perform water main flushing during the following times:

- **April through June:** E2000 area.
- **May 12-14:** APG South housing area, Austin Road.
- **July through Sept.:** E3000-E4000 area.
- **Aug. 11-13:** APG South housing area, E1220-E1300 area, and child care center.
- **Oct. through Dec.:** E5000 area.
- **Nov. 10-12:** APG South housing area, Austin Road.

For more information, contact Robert Warlick at 410-436-2196 or robert.w.warlick2.civ@mail.mil.

ONGOING

2016 FIRE MARSHALL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division will host Fire Marshall classes the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. All classes will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the class.

Upcoming class dates include:

- **April 14** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **May 19** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **June 28** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **July 14** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Aug. 11** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Sept. 27** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Oct. 13** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Nov. 17** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 15** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 20** – APG South, Bldg. 4403

Additional classes can be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Inspector Loren Brown at 410-278-1128.

ONGOING

2016 FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division will host fire extinguisher training classes on APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) throughout 2016.

Two classes will be held each day from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- **April 14** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **May 19** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **June 23** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **July 14** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Aug. 17** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Sept. 15** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Oct. 13** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Nov. 17** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 22** – APG South, Bldg. E4810

For more information, contact Ernie Little at 410-306-0583 or ernest.w.little.civ@mail.mil.

Visit APG News online at
www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews

Veteran finds solace, brotherhood on the ice

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM

U.S. Army Cpl. John M. Laursen couldn't eat or drink. His esophagus was closing.

"It was something I was breathing in from the air in Afghanistan," he said, recalling the events of 2013. "I ended up with complete dehydration. My first sergeant said, 'I'm walking you over to the doc now.'"

He would not return to combat. "During the medevac, all they could do is pump me full of IVs. I got to Landstuhl, Germany, and they had an operating room waiting for me."

Laursen had been deployed to Afghanistan for four months before his emergency evacuation from theater. He was healthy, energetic, eager to serve, headstrong and 25 years old.

He didn't understand what was happening to his body. He didn't know what the future held for his life and career as a Soldier.

A Call to Serve, Enlistment and Deploying to Iraq

Laursen was born in Staten Island, New York, and moved to Bricktown, New Jersey, at a young age. He was compelled to serve his country after the 9/11 terror attacks.

His father, John L. Laursen, was a Port Authority police officer assigned to Newark Liberty International Airport in the aircraft crash fire and rescue unit. The Port Authority's headquarters was in the World Trade Center that was destroyed on 9-11. Eighty-four Port Authority employees, including 37 officers, were killed that day.

"Luckily, he missed it by working the midnight shift. I felt like I had to do something to serve," John M. Laursen said.

In 2008, two years after graduating from Brick Township High School, he enlisted in the Army at age 20. Laursen would become a motor transport operator, 88M.

Laursen's family has a history of public service, he said, and both grandfathers served in the military. His father; mother, Michelle Champagne-Wichterman; and sister, Andrea Knapp, supported his decision, although emotions were high because of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He and his family knew he would be deployed to theater.

"I don't think it was a surprise to them when I brought up I was planning to enlist," he said. "I knew exactly what I was signing up for. I enlisted in a job where I knew I was going to be out every night on patrol.

"I wasn't afraid to get into it. I didn't know what to expect. It was just adrenaline. I was a headstrong 20-year-old, and I wanted to get out there."

Laursen deployed to Iraq, in the Baghdad Triangle, in 2009.

"When we got there, it was drought season. I was tasked with 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, which my forward support company was supporting," he said. "I volunteered to go out with the line units. I raised my hand. That's where I wanted to be. We brought medical supplies, food and water.

"People are people. When it comes down to it, we're all human. No matter where you are and what your religion is, we're human. That's the bottom line. That's something I really learned over there. Having the opportunity to work with people in need. When people are in need and help, we're all human."

His deployment to Iraq ended in 2010.

After the Wounds in Afghanistan

In 2013, Laursen went overseas again. This time, he went to Afghanistan.

He hoped his deployment to Afghanistan would provide him with a sense of closure after his time in Iraq. However, he wouldn't find closure.

After his evacuation from combat, back in the United States at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, doctors searched for a diagnosis to his mys-



(Clockwise from top left)
John M. Laursen plays goalie for the USA Warriors hockey team.

Courtesy photo
Cpl. John M. Laursen helps distribute water and food to Iraqi citizens in June 2010 in Baghdad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo
John M. Laursen works as a civilian contractor supporting the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He is assigned to RDECOM's Field Assistance in Science and Technology office.

Photo by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM

terious condition. Laursen would learn he had eosinophilic esophagitis, known as EoE, a chronic inflammatory disease of the esophagus.

"The Walter Reed doctors had a ball with me, documenting my whole case. There are two confirmed cases of service members from the area of Afghanistan that I was in.

"I'm going to have recurring surgeries to keep my esophagus open until a cure is found. I take constant medications to keep the esophagus open. Anytime it starts closing, I'll have a procedure to open it. Every three to six months, I'll go in to pop it back open."

He could no longer serve. The Army medically discharged Laursen in March 2014.

"After I fought the good fight of trying to stay in and finding every option, I was lost," he said. "I went from working 14-hour days downrange to the Warrior Transition Unit. I had three formations a week and my doctor appointments.

"I found myself in a weird state. I didn't know what to do with myself. In combat, I had top adrenaline, on edge the entire time waiting for something to happen. Now I'm sitting in a room, looking at four walls. I went to Fort Belvoir [Virginia]. I'm dropped here by myself. I had to get my life on track.

"I felt lost. I didn't have my unit there. I didn't have anybody. It took three months even to get my wife, Casey, down here. I found myself alone. That's the worst place I could be when I first got back."

Rescued by Hockey

Laursen began playing hockey at age 2. The game would go on to rescue him from severe depression and despair as an adult.

His battalion commander at the Warrior Transition Unit was a hockey player, and he told Laursen about the USA Warriors, which were based in Rockville, Maryland. Wounded and disabled service members comprise the team.

"We have two double amputees and a handful of single amputees on the team," said Laursen, the team's goalie. "Most of the players didn't start playing until they got injured. It's fun watching their progress. It's a ball, great fun, having that sense of camaraderie."

The team serves invaluable roles – support group, social network, and as a connection to their lives in the military – for its players, he said.

"We're family. We can tell if some-



body is having personal problems. We have each other's backs. That's something most people lose when they leave the military. It's a unit. It's the same sense of family that a unit has – if not closer.

"We practice every week and have tournaments. We travel two or three times a year. We've gone to Minnesota and Detroit. It's an all-around great program. It gets people out. We have representatives who go to Walter Reed and get people out of the barracks. Show them there is life after you get hurt.

"The Warriors saved my life. There is life after the military, whatever circumstances you get into. If something happens to you downrange, there are always people like you. There's always someone you can talk to."

Editor's note: John M. Laursen now works as a civilian contractor supporting the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He is assigned to RDECOM's Field Assistance in Science and Technology office.

5

ways to reuse your

copy of the APG News

1.

Protect fragile items before storing them or sending them in the mail.

2.

Line pet cages or litter boxes to keep them tidy.

3.

Save the counter from a gluey, glittery mess during your next craft project.

4.

Clean glass or windows for a streak-free shine.

5.

Make a weed barrier in a flower bed or garden before laying new topsoil.



MEMORIES OF ‘NAM



MRICD honors Vietnam War veterans

By **CINDY KRONMAN**
MRICD

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War on March 24 by honoring employees and family members who served in the conflict. A brief overview of the history of the war, touching on two important advances to military medical care, was also provided.

“We organized this event to thank the veterans of the Vietnam War and their families, particularly the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and the families who still have loved ones missing or unaccounted for,” said Stephen Kirby, an MRICD scientist and military historian, who helped organize the event. Other organizers included Melanie Murrow, Robyn Lee, Sherwin Sapasap, and Pauletta Adkins.

MRICD Commander Col. Roman Bilynsky opened the commemoration with the poem “Arlington,” by Carolyn Devonshire. He presented certificates and commander’s coins to current and retired MRICD employees who served in the war as well as to one surviving spouse. Among them were retired Air Force Lt. Col. Timothy Byrne, who works in the Chemical Casualty Care Division at the institute. During the war, Byrne served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation.

MRICD’s environmental officer, Wayne Trulli, also served in the Navy, from 1966 to 1970, as a submarine sonar technician first aboard the USS John C. Calhoun, a ballistic missile submarine, and then aboard the USS Jallao, a Balao-class submarine. Retired MRICD employee John Knapstein served as a petty officer third class aboard a destroyer, the USS Furse, in the Gulf of Tonkin.

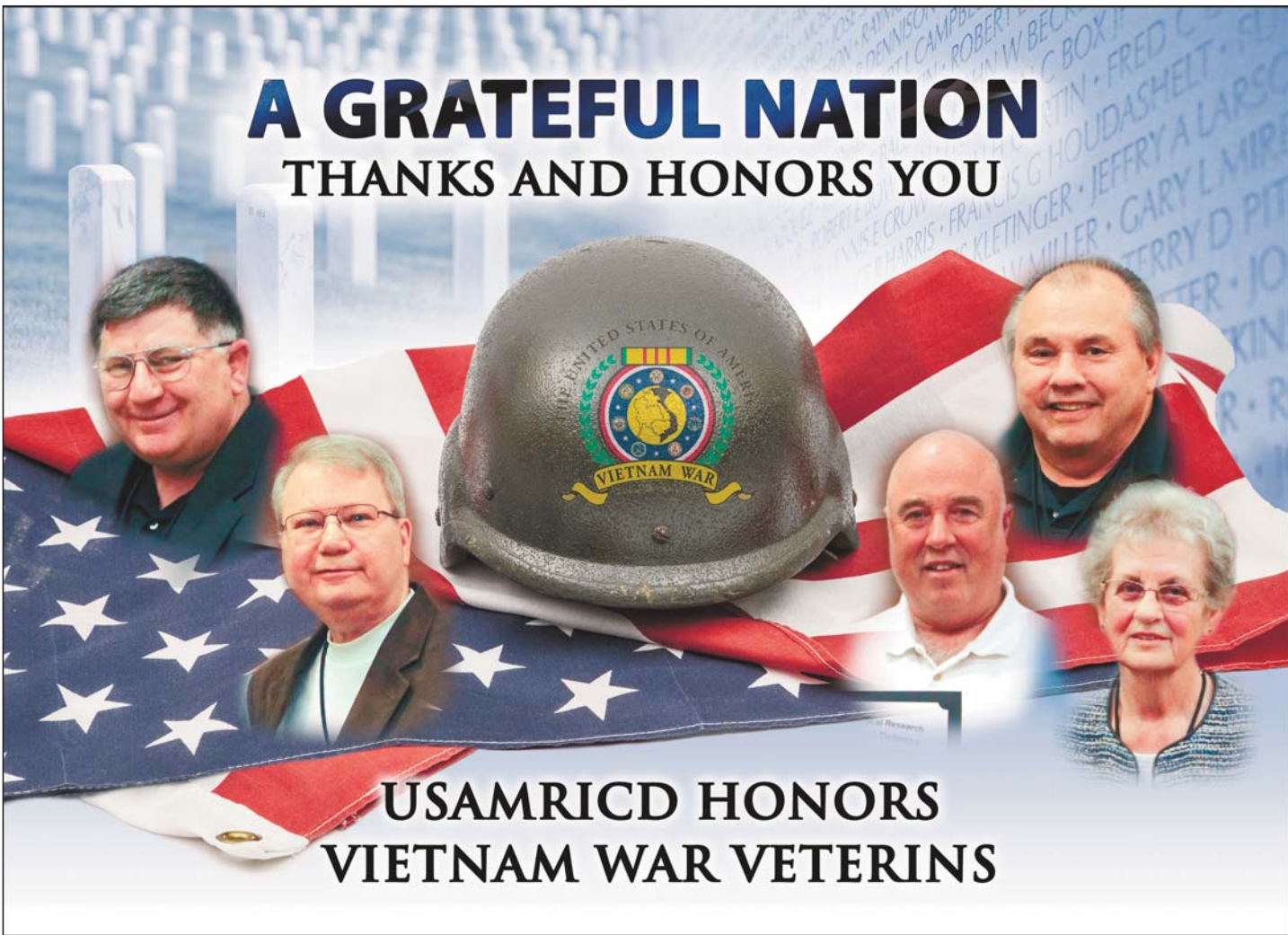
“We were one of the few ships to be hit with enemy gunfire,” remembers Knapstein.

James Apland, an MRICD scientist and a retired Medical Service Corps officer, was a captain during the war. From 1970-1971, he served with the 9th Medical Laboratory, first in Long Binh (near Saigon) and then at the laboratory’s mobile unit near the demilitarized zone in Phu Bai.

Also honored was Jack Adkins, Pauletta Adkins’s father. His widow, Mary, accepted the coin and certificate. Adkins served two year-long tours: in 1968, with the Army Corps of Engineers building roads, and in 1971 as an advisor and interpreter. He retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer 3.

MRICD’s chief of the Chemical Care Division, C. Gary Hurst, a retired Army doctor, was recognized as well for his service in the military during that time. Hurst was stationed at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Kirby presented the historical overview of the war and highlighted two important advances in medicine that significantly improved the treatment of casualties: the MEDEVAC helicopters, which allowed



The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War on March 24 by honoring employees and family members who served in the conflict. Honorees included, from left, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Timothy Byrne, who works in the MRICD Chemical Casualty Care Division; MRICD’s chief of the Chemical Care Division and retired Army doctor C. Gary Hurst; Retired MRICD employee John Knapstein who served as a petty officer third class aboard a destroyer; MRICD’s environmental officer, Wayne Trulli, who also served in the Navy, from 1966 to 1970, as a submarine sonar technician; and Mary Adkins, widow of Army veteran Jack Adkins and parent of MRICD employee Paulette Adkins. Not pictured is James Apland, MRICD scientist and a retired Medical Service Corps officer.

casualties to be transported directly from the battlefield to a fully operational hospital for treatment, and the use of frozen blood. While whole blood has a short shelf-life, a process of treating packed cells from whole blood with glycerol and freezing them at temperatures below -65 degrees Celsius provided the means to store blood long-term and avoid shortages in its supply.

Additionally, Kirby exhibited several items from his personal collection of military artifacts: the shirt of a nurse’s uniform from the chief nurse of the 7th Surgical Hospital, a combat medic jungle jacket from a Soldier in the 23rd Infantry, and a surgeon’s khaki uniform shirt, on which was embroidered the South Vietnamese emblem and abbreviation “Y Si” for military medical surgeons.

Editor’s Note: The Vietnam War Commemoration is an official observance spearheaded by the Department of Defense. It began on May 25, 2012 and will run through November 2025, as authorized by Congress. It seeks to highlight thank, honor and highlight the service of the veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam War.



Illustration by Peter Hurst and Stephanie Froberg, MRICD
Period photos of MRICD employees and family members who served in the military during the Vietnam War years were used in a poster to commemorate the event. From left to right are Wayne Trulli, John Knapstein, Timothy Byrne, James Apland, and Jack Adkins. A period photo of C. Gary Hurst was not available.



Youth show off patriotic pride

The APG South (Edgewood) Child Development Center held special events to mark “Spirit Week” to honor the Month of the Military Child this week, including Patriotic Pride Day April 5.

(Above) From left, five-year-olds Chelsea Ferguson, Holly Matthews and Piper Wagner show their red, white and blue spirit during “Patriotic Pride Day” at the APG South (Edgewood) Child Development Center April 5.

(Right) Three-year-old Oliver Bradford, sports a flag-themed shirt for “Patriotic Pride Day” at the APG South (Edgewood) Child Development Center April 5.



Photos by Rachel Ponder, APG News



All Things MARYLAND

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Park first of new stadiums be nestled into existing neighborhoods

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Major League Baseball has returned and Baltimore Orioles fans are eagerly planning trips to Oriole Park at Camden Yards to witness “Oriole Magic” in a world-class sports stadium.

When Oriole Park at Camden Yards first officially opened in April 6, 1992, the design was considered groundbreaking because it broke the trend of the symmetrical “multipurpose” stadium. The stadium is the first major league park to have an outfield wall made up entirely of straight wall segments since Ebbets Field, which was built in 1913. According to the Baltimore Orioles website, fans appreciate the stadium’s “retro” look and its close proximity to downtown and the Inner Harbor.

“No longer would communities across America build multipurpose stadiums devoid of character, surrounded by vast parking lots,” the website reads. “Ballparks would now be created to nestle into existing and historic neighborhoods and play key roles in the revitalization of urban America.

Oriole Park at Camden Yards was built on land that was once served as the rail yard for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad’s Camden Station. A distinguishing feature of the ballpark is that stadium planners incorporated the B&O Warehouse into the architecture of the ballpark rather than demolish it.

Originally built in 1905, the B&O Warehouse is often claimed to be the longest brick building on the East Coast. During its use by the B&O Railroad the 116-foot long, eight-story brick structure was large enough to hold 1,000 car loads of freight at a time.

The B&O Railroad use the warehouse until the 1960s and it sat mostly vacant and unused until the park’s renovation. The turn-of-the century warehouse now serves as the backdrop for right and right center fields. Currently the building is used for team offices and spaces, a private team club, and wedding receptions. The historic building has been hit by a ball only once, by Ken Griffey Jr. during the Home Run Derby of the 1993 MLB All-Star Game.

Another unique feature of Camden Yards is Eutaw Street, located between the stadiums and the warehouse. The street is closed to vehicle traffic and serves as a pedestrian thoroughfare, featuring souvenir shops and restaurants. On game days, gates directly to the park are opened and the street is open only to ticket-holding fans. One of the featured eateries is “Boog’s Barbeque,” owned by Orioles star Boog Powell.

More than 75 homeruns have landed on Eutaw Street, each of which is commemorated with small baseball-



(Above) Oriole Park at Camden Yards during the national anthem prior to an afternoon game, in June 2013. Courtesy photo by Keith Allison
(Right) The Oriole bird, mascot of the Baltimore Orioles team interacts with the crowd at a home game. Photo by Rachel Ponder, APG News

shaped plaques embedded in the street, marking the spot where the ball landed. The most recent home run to land on Eutaw Street was by Orioles first baseman Chris “Crush” Davis on June 16, 2015. The single season record for home runs landing on Eutaw Street is eight, set in 2008.

Other popular attractions at “The Yard” include the bronze sculptures of six former Orioles whose uniform numbers were retired by the franchise. These sculptures were unveiled individually near the main entrance of the ballpark during the 2012 season, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The statues were created by Maryland based sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez and cast at the locally-based New Arts Foundry.

Also in this area is the statue of baseball legend Babe Ruth, entitled “Babe’s Dream,” and created by sculptor Susan Luery in 1996. The statue celebrates the fact that Ruth was born just a few blocks away from the ballpark in the historic “Pigtown” district. In fact, Ruth’s father, George Herman Ruth Sr., owned a saloon in a building that was located in what is now center field in Oriole Park.

Oriole Park at Camden Yards is so popular that it has earned several awards. In 2014 the park was ranked number one in ballpark experience by Stadium Journey, www.stadiumjourney.com.

The journal states, “History was made by Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Its opening changed baseball and the way fans chose to experience games. A fan will revel in its festival-like atmosphere

while still enjoying the purity of quality baseball.”

Fans can go behind the scenes to experience the ballpark from the club level suites, the scoreboard and Jumbotron control room, the press level and even the Orioles dugout during park tours.



Tours are offered daily, except on daytime game days. For information and ticketing, visit <http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com/bal/ballpark/tours/>.

Sources: www.wikipedia.org; <http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com/bal/ballpark/>; www.stadiumjourney.com; <http://www.stma.org/>



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Learn more about APG MWR activities and services by going online at www.apgmwr.com.

Upcoming Activities

SAVE THE DATE BJ'S MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UPS APRIL 12

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG South (Edgewood) recreation center
APRIL 13

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG bowling center

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a BJ's membership sign-up at the above location and times. Save \$10 off the \$50 in-store membership fee for Inner Circle and \$20 off the \$100 in-store membership fee for the Rewards Program. Memberships are for 15 months instead of 12. It applies to new and renewal memberships. All forms of payment accepted. Discount memberships are only available on-site, not in the store or online.

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION APRIL 26

1 to 3 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center

Newly-assigned Soldiers and civilian employees are encouraged to attend the APG Newcomers Orientation. Sponsors should bring family members. More than 35 APG community activities and organization representatives will welcome new members of Team APG with handouts and answer questions regarding their programs and services.

For more information, contact Jennifer Eichner at 410-278-2500.

COSTCO MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UPS APRIL 19

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG South (Aberdeen) recreation center
APRIL 20

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Costco membership sign-up at the above location and times. New members will receive a Costco Cash Card. Gold Star memberships are \$55 and receive a \$10 cash card. Executive memberships (rewards program) are an additional \$55 per year and receive a \$20 cash card. Membership includes a free household card for a spouse or family member. Renewals are also welcome and will receive a free giveaway.

ARMY/NAVY GAME TICKETS DEC. 10

While supplies last, MWR Leisure Travel Services has tickets to the Army v. Navy game on Dec. 10 at the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. Tickets are \$91 a person.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907.

LEISURE & TRAVEL CLUE - A WHODUNIT MURDER MYSTERY & DINNER THEATER APRIL 28

6 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center ballroom.

Admission: \$10 Active Duty \$15 Civilians (Not for children - contains adult language)

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with a cash bar. Dinner buffet begins at 6 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. and will last approximately two hours. To register or for more information visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326.

For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel.

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD 2K COLOR FAMILY FUN RUN APRIL 23

APG MWR will host a free 2K Color Family Fun Run starting 10 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center. Rain date will be Saturday, April 30. Active-duty, Reservist, wounded warrior and Gold Star family registration begins Feb. 22. All other registration begins Feb. 29. Registration is open to the first 750 participants. All ages are welcome.

Register online at <https://apgmomccolorrun2016.eventbrite.com>. All participants, regardless of age, must register. The first 300 youth ages 3 to 15 will receive a t-shirt.

Volunteers are needed for the fun run. Volunteers can register at <https://apgvolunteercolorrund2016.eventbrite.com>.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Participants must be registered with the CYSS Parent Central Office. Fees are based on total family income. Fees waived for all middle school students' afternoon care.

For more information, contact the Parent Central Office at 410-278-7571.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

EFMP BOWLING APRIL 18

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Bowling Alley.

The APG Exceptional Family Member Program invites families with special needs children to attend a special bowling night at the APG North (Aberdeen)

bowling center.

For more information, contact Nancy Goucher, EFMP at 410-278- 2420 or nancy.e.goucher.civ@mail.mil.

START & REVITALIZE YOUR CAREER APRIL 20

11:30 - 1:30 p.m., ACS Bldg. 2503

Whether you are starting a new career or need a boost in your current career, this workshop offers you the following:

- set a career path that defines you
- create strategies to move your career to the next level
- set S.M.A.R.T. goals that work: (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic Time bound)
- be the job applicant that stands out.

To enroll in this free class you must register with ACS employment readiness program manager, 410-278-9669.

SAVING AND INVESTING APRIL 28

11:30 - 12:30 p.m., ACS Bldg. 2503

This class will identify reasons to save and how to set goals for a savings plan. Participants will explore the difference between short term savings and long term investments. For more information contact Leary Henry leary.g.henry.civ@mail.mil 410-278-2453.

RESUME & INTERVIEW TIPS MAY 5

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 2503

Learn the steps to creating a winning resume as well as helpful tips to build your interview skills during a Resume and Interview Tips workshop hosted by Army Community Service. Registration is required. To save a seat, call Marilyn Howard at 410-278-9669.

SPORTS & RECREATION

GET GOLF READY! APRIL 19, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

APRIL 21, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

APRIL 23, 11 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
Ruggles Golf Course

PGA Professionals will show you that there are lots of ways to play by combining fun, friends and fitness.

Each session will focus on the various golf skills you will use while playing. In addition to learning the basics, you will be guided onto the golf course to put your skills into action in a casual, friendly setting. No equipment needed!

Five 1.5 hour sessions meeting once per week.

Cost is \$99 per participant.
For more information, contact Dave

Correll at 410-278-4794.

SPRING SCRAMBLE APRIL 16

9 a.m.; Ruggles Golf Course

18 hole, captain's choice scramble. Fees: \$35 for members, \$55 as a guest. Price includes: cart, greens fees, range balls, morning coffee, tournament prizes and awards lunch after play. For more information, call 410-278-4794.

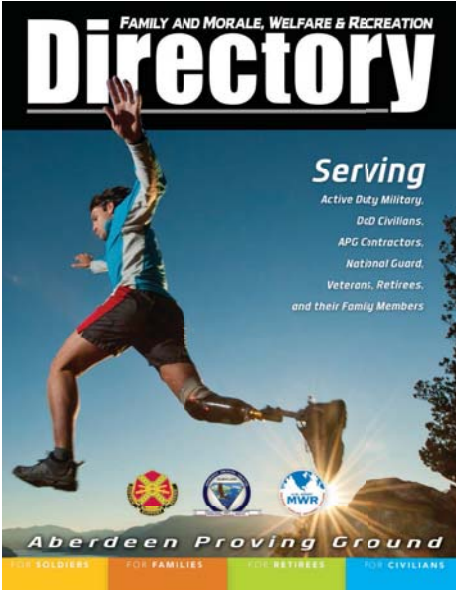
APG FITNESS CENTER SURVEY THROUGH APRIL 21

Let your voice be heard! Take the APG Fitness Center Survey and let us know how you feel. Visit www.apgmwr.com to find links to the surveys under "Upcoming Events & Announcements" on the homepage, or under Recreation & Sports > Sports & Fitness.

SPRING SCRAMBLE APRIL 23

9 a.m.; Exton Golf Course

18 hole shotgun. Food and refreshments included. Fees: \$30 annual patron, \$35 authorized patron, \$40 as a guest. Pre-registration at Exton Clubhouse. Fees due on day of event. For more information call 410-436-2213 or 410-436-2233.



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GET GOLF READY

Call the golf shop for dates and times at 410-278-4794. Spaces are limited so call today.

Get Golf Ready is designed to teach everything you'll need to play golf in just a few lessons. PGA Professionals will show you that there are lots of ways to play by combining fun, friends and fitness. Each session will focus on the various golf skills you will use while playing. In addition to learning the basics, you will be guided onto the golf course to put your skills into action in a casual, friendly setting. No equipment needed!

Five 1.5 hour sessions meeting once per week.
Beginning Tuesday April 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Thursday April 21, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Saturday April 23 11 am until 12:30.

Cost \$99

83 42 15 20

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Session BINGO

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MRICD biologist completes Bataan Memorial Death March

By **CINDY KRONMAN**
MRICD

A research biologist with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense recently joined an elite group of service members, veterans and civilians who have completed the challenging 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March, or BMDM, held annually at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Offie E. Clark III took part in the march, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which honors the World War II service members who were captured by the Japanese in April 1942 and forced to march through the Philippine jungle to a prisoner of war camp. This year's event was held on March 20.

"To spend this time with the many people who journeyed to the White Sands desert to commemorate the sacrifices of the original marchers was very inspirational," Clark said. "The entire trip was a very positive experience."

BMDM participants from MRICD each took on the challenge in tribute to the original marchers and for the opportunity to express their gratitude to the surviving Bataan veterans who attend the march each year.

Most of the MRICD participants have done the march individually. MRICD's commander, Col. Roman Bilynsky, participated in 2003, while serving as a child neurologist at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"I'd like to do it again," admitted Bilynsky, who has set his sights on 2017, schedule permitting.

Capt. Kristina Pugh, one of MRICD's veterinarians, completed the march in 2015.

"I did the march to display appreciation for the sacrifices of warfighter veterans, as well as for the [physical] challenges of the march," Pugh said, adding, "I really enjoyed the talks from the survivors and the personal conversations I had with their family members."

In 2007, Staff Sgt. Alicia Swails completed the march as part of a team in the category Military (light). At the time she was assigned to the Rocky Mountain Veterinary Command, serving at the Fort Carson, Colorado branch, and her teammates were from the Fort Huachuca, Arizona branch. The challenge and the camaraderie of being part of team were additional motivations for her.

"It was humbling to see the veterans present," Swails said, "and to know that the demands of the march that I completed on that day were only a fraction of what the service members actually endured during the Bataan Death March."



(Left) MRICD employees and Soldiers who completed a Bataan Memorial Death March pose for a group photo. From left, Staff Sgt. Alicia Swails, Offie E. Clark III, Rick Smith, and Capt. Kristina Pugh. Not shown Col. Roman Bilynsky. Photo by Christopher Ginn, MRICD

(Below) MRICD research biologist Offie E. Clark III walked and intermittently jogged the 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, 75 percent of which is over a sand and dirt trail.

Photo courtesy of Marathon Foto

For MRICD chemist Rick Smith, who did the march in 2014, the experience was a bit more personal.

"My uncle was a U.S. Marine taken prisoner on Wake Island in December 1941," explained Smith. "Like these men, he spent all but the earliest stages of World War II in Japanese prisoner of war camps."

Smith's uncle survived the experience, but the injuries and disease he suffered as a POW took their toll, and he died at a fairly young age.

Smith had planned to participate in the march again this year, but had to postpone and hopes to participate in a future march. His enthusiasm for the event and the fact that the number of attending Bataan veterans gets smaller each year are partly what motivated Clark, a running enthusiast, to take on another marathon.

But the BMDM is so much more than just the marathon.

"Many events were planned for the weekend to include cookouts, presentations and movies to become more aware of the events in World War II around Bataan," Clark said. "The Saturday before the race you can meet some of the Bataan survivors and their families."

According to Clark, about 6,000 runners, hikers, and heavy packers—those who wear their military uniforms and carry back packs of 35 pounds or more—participated this year. Among them were soldiers from Canada, Germany, Spain, France, and other NATO countries.

"For me the scenery was breathtaking and the fellowship invigorating," said Clark. "I would highly recommend this event for anyone who wants to experience a challenge."



JLENS Soldier honored at retirement ceremony

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Family, friends and coworkers gathered to honor Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zachary L. Harris during the Installation Retirement Ceremony at the Ball Conference Center on APG North (Aberdeen) March 31.

Harris served with the Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, known as the JLENS unit, as a command and control systems integrator and air defense planner. Ceremony narrator Celestine Beckett, garrison workforce development manager, said Harris will retire Jul. 31 with 20 years of exceptional service.

"During those years he [Harris] made positive contributions to the installation and the Army," Beckett said. "He represents dedication, commitment and selfless service."

Col. John V. Teyhen III, deputy director of the Army Public Health Center (Provisional), or APHC, presided over the ceremony and presented awards, assisted by APHC 1st Sgt. James L. Mitchell.

Teyhen thanked Harris for his military service and wished him well in his future civilian career.

"We [Soldiers] are very marketable

on the outside because of the training and the experience we receive in the military," Teyhen said. "Godspeed and good luck in your next career."

Harris was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, and the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement.

He thanked those in attendance and all who helped him during his career, and said he could not have accomplished what he did on his own.

"To the Soldiers that follow my path, just remember one thing when you get to

To the Soldiers that follow my path, just remember one thing when you get to this point: nobody gets here alone. Make sure you train your replacement, and most importantly of all, enjoy the ride.

**Chief Warrant Officer 3
Zachary L. Harris**

Retiree

Jones said he recalled hearing Harris' name bandied about when he first arrived at the battery.

"Who is this Wizard of Oz that's controlling this whole unit?" Jones said he

this point: nobody gets here alone," Harris said. "Make sure you train your replacement, and most importantly of all, enjoy the ride."

Capt. Tarik Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Ibarra and Sgt. Skye Gibson, also from JLENS, presented Harris with personalized gifts that included a hand carved model of the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System aerostat and a plaque featuring his rank and service ribbons.



Photos by La'mont Harbison

Col. John V. Teyhen III, Deputy Director of the Army Public Health Center (Provisional), or APHC, left, presents the Department of the Army certificate of retirement to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zachary L. Harris during the Installation Retirement Ceremony at the Ball Conference Center on APG North (Aberdeen), March 31.

wondered. He said he was surprised to discover it was "this quiet professional who wanted no credit for anything."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zachary L. Harris

Harris enlisted in the Army in July 1996 and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, followed by Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, as a 14S Avenger Crewmember at Fort Bliss, Texas.

His previous assignments include Fort Drum, New York; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Dugway Proving Ground,

Utah; and Korea.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service medals; Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign medals and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Harris holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Columbia Southern University and a master's in Information Assurance and Security from American Military University. He is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, or CISSP, and Certified Ethical Hacker, CEH.

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Experiment tests translation system

By **PATRICK O'MALLEY**
and **TRACY BLOCKER**
Organization

The Machine Foreign Language Translation System, known as MFLTS, successfully demonstrated two-way speech translation with foreign language speakers during the Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment, or AEWE, at Fort Benning, Georgia, in March.

MFLTS is a software product that provides a basic automated foreign speech and text translation capability in order to augment and complement limited human linguistic resources across all Army echelons.

The open systems architecture enables continuous integration of additional language components (i.e. “language packs”) to meet the Army’s prioritized language translation requirements, resulting in an ever-expanding portfolio of language translation resources. The MFLTS program is an incrementally deployed program that uses an evolutionary acquisition strategy to maximize the inherent advantages of product improvements and commercial best practices.

During the experiment, noncommissioned officers, or NCOs, used the MFLTS 2-Way Speech-to-Speech Translation Application for Iraqi Arabic on the Nett Warrior End User Device, or NW EUD, to assess the performance of the integrated application and peripheral devices consisting of different microphones and speakers. Soldiers from the 52nd Translator-Interpreter Company at Fort Polk, Louisiana, served as Iraqi role players in scenarios ranging from basic checkpoint and base security operations to tactical questioning. Both Translator-Interpreter Soldiers involved in the event, who recently returned from Iraq where they served as interpreters, said they believe that the MFLTS app would be a benefit to Soldiers involved in theater.

The NCOs used the MFLTS Application to communicate with the foreign language role players to complete basic tasks or to gather information from the local population.

Staff Sgt. Steven Comeau, from the Exercise Force at Fort Benning, Georgia, stated, “In these tactical questioning scenarios, I understood what was needed. I liked having this application on NW; it was easy to use and effective. I felt that I could build rapport with the guy [foreign language speaker].”

“I see this app as ideal for basic communication and questioning when encountering the local population,” said Staff Sgt. Raymond Balona, from



A Soldier uses the Machine Foreign Language Translation System, or MFLTS, to communicate with a role player during the Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment, or AEWE at Fort Benning, Georgia in March 2016.

the Exercise Force “I like that the logs are automatically recorded on the EUD for later reference.”

One example scenario where Soldiers used MFLTS with good effect during AEWE was engagement with a foreign language truck driver who had information concerning the unit’s area of operations. Supported by an NCO equipped with the MFLTS app on the NW EUD, the Exercise Force Commander learned that the truck driver had recently delivered his cargo and visited his family in an area controlled by insurgents. The man showed the commander on a map where trucks driven by insurgents have been delivering construction supplies – an old airstrip a few kilometers from the unit’s position. With this information, the commander was able to more effectively plan for the next day’s operation against the insurgents.

Besides assessment of the actual MFLTS Application on the NW EUD, Soldiers also used and evaluated three different peripheral microphone and speaker options. Soldiers assessed the periph-

als on ease of use, microphone sensitivity, speaker volume, and overall combined performance with the software application. All of the peripheral options succeeded but with various pros and cons identified from the Soldiers, foreign language role players and AEWE observers. After further analysis of the data points, the Product Manager, Ground Soldier Systems will make a determination on peripheral options for future fielding.

AEWE has proven to be an excellent venue for Soldier feedback based on Soldier experiences in an operational environment established at Fort Benning. With the knowledge gained at AEWE, MFLTS will confidently move forward with fielding of the MFLTS 2-way Speech Translation Application to NW in fall 2016.

Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment

The AEWE is Training and Doctrine Command’s live, prototype experimentation campaign. It examines concepts and capabilities for the cur-

rent and future force across all warfighting functions. The AEWE focuses on the Soldier and small unit, examining concepts and capabilities for the current and future force across all warfighting functions and doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities domains.

The AEWE places technologies, like MFLTS, into the hands of Soldiers and is the Army’s capstone event for investigation, experimentation and assessment of dismounted technologies, tactics, techniques and procedures, and emerging doctrinal concepts – informing critical Army decisions (such as structure, basis of issue plans, and leader development for the technology-enabled Infantry Rifle Company and subordinate elements). AEWE provides capability developers, the science and technology (S&T) community and industry a repeatable, credible, rigorous and validated operational experiment venue to support Doctrine, Organization, Training, and Leadership and Education concepts and materiel development efforts.

BY THE NUMB#RS

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. This educational campaign encourages Americans to avoid all distractions while driving.

3,000+

Number of deaths that can be attributed to distracted driving each year. Approximately 416,000 injuries are also attributed to distracted driving.

71

Percentage of teens and young adults that say they have composed or sent text messages while driving. In 2013, several cell phone providers and organizations teamed up to promote the “It Can Wait” campaign, an attempt to inform young drivers that no phone call or text message is worth a life.

14

Number of U.S. states, including Maryland, that prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. All are primary enforcement laws meaning an officer may cite a driver for using a hand-held cell phone without any other traffic offense taking place.

5

Number of seconds, on average, that drivers take their eyes off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that’s enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, text messaging while driving creates a crash risk 23 times higher than driving while not distracted.

3

Number of categories of distracted driving, according to experts. Visual distractions take your eyes off the road, manual distractions take your hands off the wheel and cognitive distractions take your mind off the road.

By **RACHEL PONDER**, APG News

Source(s): <http://www.drive-safely.net/distracted-driving/>; <http://www.ghsa.org/>; <http://movinginsider.com/>; www.distraction.gov

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The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program can help!

Call the ADR Coordinator at 410-306-0152 for more information!

Tell them you saw it in the APG News

THIS WEEK IN APG HISTORY

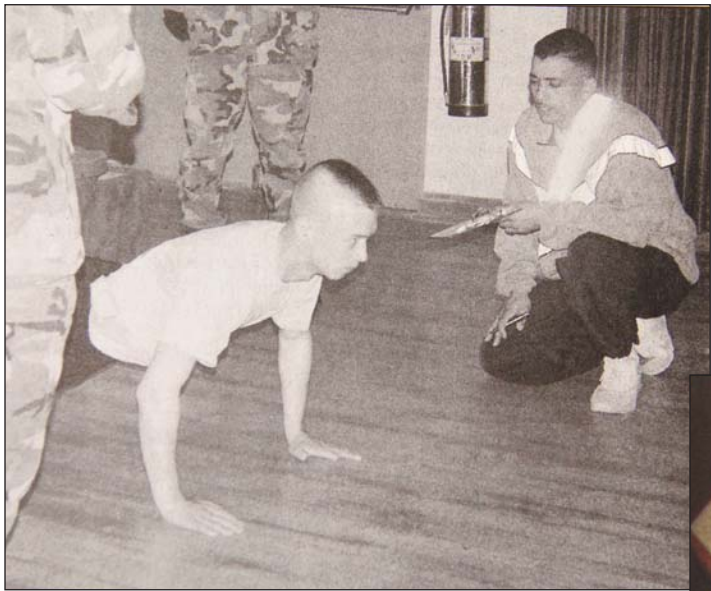


Take a look back in time as the APG News explores what made the headlines around APG during this week 10, 25 and 50 years ago. This week's APG News masthead is from 1991.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, *APG News*

2015
2010
2000
1990
1980
1970
1960
1950

10 Years Ago: April 6, 2006



(Left) Staff Sgt. Kristopher Shocks, of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), counts repetitions as Sgt. Bradey Engel, eventual winner of the APG Soldier of the Year competition knocks out his pushups during the Physical Fitness Test.

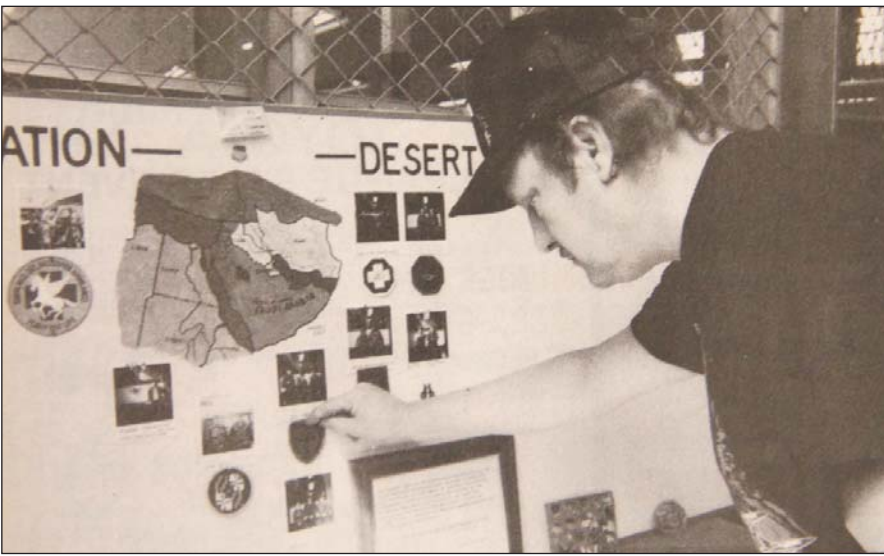


(Right) Members of the National Guard intramural basketball team pose with their trophies after winning the post championship at Hoyle Gym.

25 Years Ago: April 10, 1991

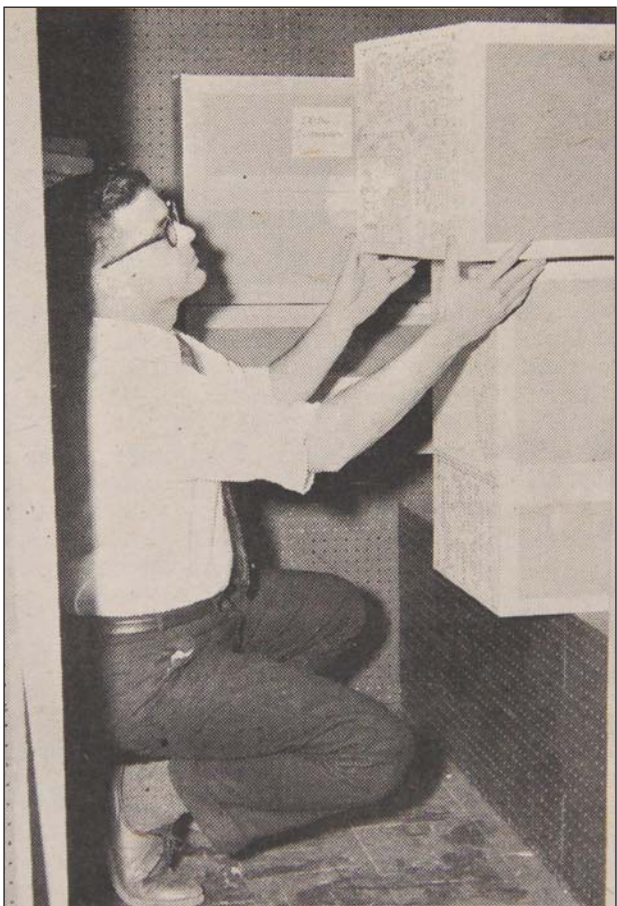


(Left) The late Dr. Jim Bailey, former APG fish and wildlife biologist, right, watches Maj. Dave Weeks and his son, Boy Scout Sean Week, hang one of several bluebird nesting boxes for an Eagle Scout project.



(Right) Al Demko, a warehouse worker with the Logistics Management Division, adjusts a map display he made of Aberdeen Proving Ground units supporting Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

50 Years Ago: April 7, 1966



(Left) Engineer technician Robert F. MacNeill, with the U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratory handles a mockup static simulator to demonstrate the vital part they play in accelerating human engineering evaluation of the Army Communications System.



(Below) Col. Elmer W. Grubbs, post commander, left, awards the Air Medal to Staff Sgt. Ronald W. Talley for meritorious achievement from October 1964 to August 1965 while serving with the 765th Transportation Battalion in Vietnam.

What do you really know about alcohol?

APG Army Substance Abuse Program

To make good decisions, people need facts and the Army Substance Abuse Program believes that Alcohol Awareness Month is the perfect time to share basic facts about alcohol.

What is alcohol?

Alcohol is a drug that contains ethanol, a substance, which depresses the body’s central nervous system.

What are the different forms of alcohol?

Wine, wine coolers, beer and distilled spirits all contain alcohol. A 12-ounce wine cooler contains approximately 7 percent alcohol, the same amount as in 1-and-one-half ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits, 5 ounces of wine or a 12-ounce beer. They are metabolized or cleared from the body at the approximate rate of one drink per hour, with individual variances.

How does alcohol affect the body?

The moment alcohol enters the body; it is absorbed directly into the bloodstream first through the walls of the stomach and then the small intestine. The heart starts beating faster and skin becomes flushed. Coordination, depth perception, reflexes, vision, reason, and judgment are adversely affected after two drinks for men and one drink for women. Alcohol attacks liver cells, destroys proteins, disrupts the body’s blood sugar balance, flushes out water soluble vitamins, and inflames the esophagus and pancreas when taken in excess.

What’s the truth about “sobering up”?

Drinking coffee only makes a wide awake drunk. Taking a brisk walk or a cold shower will provide exercise and a clean drunk. The only thing that sobers is time. The liver does most of the work to rid the body of alcohol and nothing can be done to speed up that elimination process. Drinking milk or eating a meal before drinking alcohol will slow down the absorption of alcohol



FAMILY

Talk Early, Talk Often

Parents can make a difference in Teen Alcohol use

Alcohol Awareness Month

ASAP 410-278-3787

but will not prevent a person from getting drunk when binge drinking. While body weight and the rate of alcohol consumption directly influence the amount of alcohol needed to make a person drunk, nothing will prevent alcohol from entering the bloodstream.

How do people become addicted to alcohol?

Alcoholism is a disease that develops when alcohol reacts with a person’s particular body chemistry. Depending on a person’s physical or genetic make-up, it may take a little or a lot to become addicted. Each person is born with a certain level of risk for developing this disease, some more so than others. Teenagers can quickly become addicted to alcohol because a young person’s liver metabolizes alcohol more rapidly than adults. They may build up a tolerance to the drug, requiring more and more alcohol to achieve the same effect. The elderly are also more at risk as they no longer metabolize drugs or alcohol as well as they once did.

What are the warning signs of

- alcoholism?**
- Here are some warning signs of alcoholism.
 - Increased tolerance – the higher your tolerance is the closer you are to becoming an alcoholic.
 - Inability to stop drinking after one or two drinks or being unable to predict when you’ll stop drinking once you start. This includes experiencing withdrawals ranging from insomnia to irritability to needing a drink to overcome the effects of a hangover.
 - Chronic blackouts and/or repeatedly passing out.
 - Making excuses for drinking.
 - Frequent absenteeism from work or school.
 - Pre-drinking before going out to drink.
 - Binge drinking more than five drinks at a sitting.
 - Family, friends or coworkers commenting or complaining about your drinking habits.
- What risks are associated with heavy drinking and alcoholism?**

- Know the risks and think about the effect alcohol can have on your life.
- Short-term risks include impaired judgment, increased accidents, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, legal problems, alcohol-related arrests, loss of friends, DWI/DUIs, and accidental death.
 - Long-term risks include short term memory loss, social isolation and decline, incurable brain disease (Warnecke-Karsokoff syndrome), paranoia, and possible suicide (most suicides are committed while intoxicated).
 - Financial Problems can include loss of employment, damage to or loss of personal property, and the expense of alcohol abuse.
 - Physical Health from greater risk for increased blood pressure, heart disease, pancreatitis, cirrhosis, cancers of the mouth and esophagus, and malnutrition.
 - Family Problems including violence, disruption of home life and alienation of spouses, parents, children, and other family members.
 - Work/School Problems include poor attendance, substandard work/school production, alienation of coworkers and classmates, and loss of employment.
- Alcohol is a dangerous and powerful drug that impacts millions of lives everyday.
- Here are some more alcohol facts:
- Alcohol is involved in 60 percent of all auto fatalities.
 - Individuals under the influence of alcohol commit 83 percent of all murders and 72 of sexual assaults.
 - An estimated 4.6 million teenagers are problem drinkers.
 - Alcohol is involved in 60 percent of reported cases of child abuse.
 - Alcohol costs the economy \$50 billion a year in lost productivity and health care costs.
- Now you really know factual information regarding alcohol. For more information, contact Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, at 410-278-4013 or cynthia.m.scott4.civ@mail.mil.

Protect Our Children: supervised, safe and sound

APG Family Advocacy Program

Everyone can play a part in building community and building hope. Children are the most vulnerable military family members, and it is the duty and privilege of adults to provide for their health, safety and well-being. Every April military leaders, professionals, parents, volunteers, friends and neighbors join together to actively contribute to the safe and positive environments in which children can grow and thrive.

Keeping children safe is no simple task. Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of the military and civilian communities, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone. Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

Child abuse can have life-long psychological, emotional, and physical effects. Protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk of child abuse and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children. Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies.

Communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families. We must acknowledge that we need to work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

This month and throughout the year, USAG APG Army Community Service (ACS), encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making APG a better place for children and families.

April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children and strengthening families. Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to connect with families is the best thing our community can do to strengthen families and prevent



APRIL IS
NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Supervised, Safe & Sound

Everyone plays a role in keeping our children safe and healthy.
Learn more at militaryonesource.mil


Preventing child abuse is everyone’s business

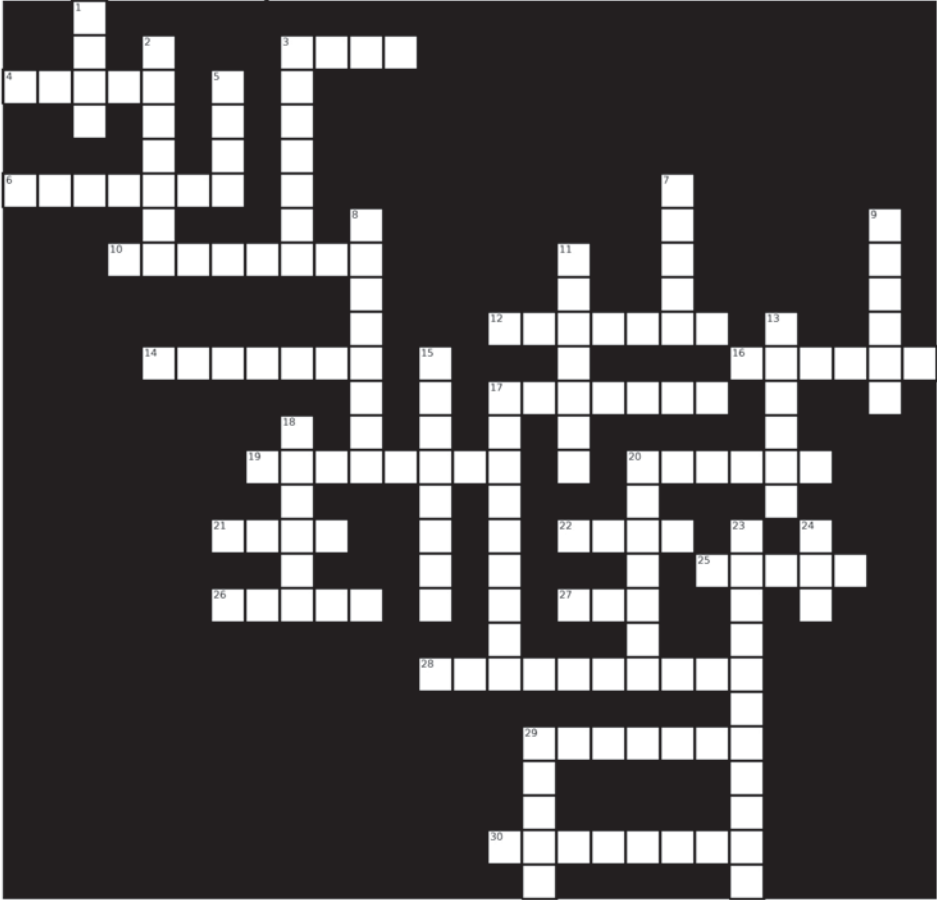
- vent child abuse and neglect.
- Ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities. Research shows that protective factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. They are:
- Nurturing and attachment
 - Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
 - Parental resilience
 - Social connections
 - Concrete supports for parents
 - Social and emotional competence of children
- APG National Child Abuse Prevention Month Events**
- Wear Blue Selfie Day**
- April 8 – Wear Blue Selfie Day: A simple gesture can make all the difference. “Wear Blue Day” generates awareness about child abuse and neglect. If

- able, employees are encouraged to wear blue to work and share their Blue Day Selfie in front of their organization sign by emailing them to rosealine.p.smith.civ@mail.mil.
- Fingerprinting at the Child Development Centers**
- April 11 – APG South (Edgewood) CDC , 9-11 am
 - April 12 – Bayside CDC, 3-4:30 pm
 - April 28 – APG North (Aberdeen) CDC, 9-11 am
- Surviving Spouses reading to the children**
- April 12 – Bayside CDC, 9-11 am
 - April 18 – APG South (Edgewood) CDC, 3:30-5 pm
 - April 27 – APG North (Aberdeen) CDC, 9-11 am
- Family Color Fun Run & Festival**
- April 23 – A Family Color Fun Run & Festival will celebrate Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Awareness Month. The run is sponsored by APG MWR Child, Youth and School Services and other installation organizations.

- For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April and throughout the year, contact ACS Family Advocacy Program Manager at 410-278-7478.
- Important Contacts and Phone Numbers:**
- National Child Abuse Hotline: the National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), Serving the United States, its territories, and Canada, the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with professional crisis counselors who, through interpreters, can provide assistance in over 200 languages. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential.
 - APG Family Advocacy Program: 410-278-7478
 - APG Army Community Service: 410-278-7572
 - APG Police: 410-306-2222
 - Harford County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) 410-638-3294



Come and follow us <https://twitter.com/USAGAPG>



The APG Crossword

Take me out to the ballgame!

By **RAHEL PONDER**, *APG News*

Celebrate the beginning of the Major League Baseball season with this trivia puzzle.

Across

- 3. A grand _____ occurs when the bases are “loaded” and the batter hits a home run.
- 4. This Yankees player and manager was widely considered one of the best catchers of all time.
- 6. Slang term for a fight or a scuffle in baseball.
- 10. In baseball, a golden _____ is when a player strikes out four times in a single game.
- 12. Mascot of the Washington Nationals.
- 14. Area where relief pitch-

- ers warm-up before entering a game.
- 16. He established a record of 2,623 consecutive games played during a 21-year Hall of Fame baseball career.
- 17. The Curse of the _____ was a superstition based on the failure of the Boston Red Sox baseball team to win the World Series in the 86-year period from 1918 to 2004.
- 19. A colloquialism used in baseball, for a ball thrown at an opposing player’s head with the intention of striking him; often employed in retaliation or

- frustration.
- 20. Third base is known as the “hot _____.”
- 21. A _____ team provides experience and training for young players, with an agreement that any successful players can move on to a higher level.
- 22. The strike _____ is the volume of space through which a pitch must pass in order to count as a strike, if the batter does not swing.
- 25. A _____ pitcher is a term in baseball for a pitcher who relies on the speed of his pitches, sometimes at the expense of accuracy.
- 26. Number of White Sox players that were banned from organized baseball for life as a result of the 1919 Black Sox Scandal.
- 27. Term for best starting pitcher, usually the first pitcher in the team’s starting rotation.
- 28. A hitter’s power zone.
- 29. Current owner of the Baltimore Orioles.
- 30. A left-handed pitcher.

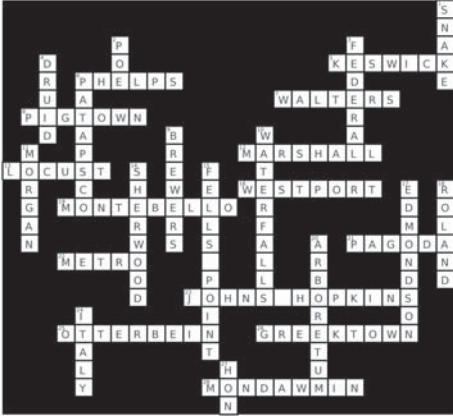
Down

- 1. A pop fly is also known as a can of _____.
- 2. Dominican-American third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles.
- 3. A _____ play is a maneuver consisting of a sacrifice bunt with a runner on third base.
- 5. Nicknamed the “Georgia Peach” this player set 90 MLB records during his career and was known for his aggressive playing style and brusque temperament.
- 7. In baseball, “chin _____” means a pitch that is thrown near the batter’s

- face.
- 8. The first African American to play in the major leagues in the modern era.
- 9. A _____ game is the deciding game of a series.
- 11. A team’s closer or late-inning relief pitcher.
- 13. Slang term for a home run.
- 15. He is best known for his 56-game hitting streak, a record that still stands.
- 17. Birthplace of baseball legend Babe Ruth.
- 18. He was the first MLB player to have his uniform number retired.
- 20. He wrote a tell-all book about his steroid use while he was a professional baseball player.
- 23. Location of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.
- 24. A ball traveling at high speed, either batted or thrown.
- 29. He broke Babe Ruth’s record of 714 home runs in 1974, finishing with a career total of 755.

Think you solved last week’s puzzle?
Check out the solution below

Solution to the March 31 puzzle



WORD OF THE WEEK

Malcontent

Pronounced: mal-kuh n-tent

Part of Speech: Noun

Definition:

- 1. A person who is dissatisfied and rebellious
- 2. One who bears a grudge or is in active opposition to an established order or government

Part of Speech: Adjective

Definition:

- 3. Not satisfied or content with currently prevailing conditions or circumstances.
- 4. Dissatisfied and complaining or rebellious

Use:


- Unfortunately, when it comes to cutting city budgets, the malcontents always seem to outnumber those more accepting of fiscal realities.
- She questioned the proceedings so loudly and regularly that she was seen as a shrill malcontent while she saw herself as a person of careful deliberation.
- The malcontent officers saw themselves as leaders of an important counter-revolution rather than as the mutineers they were.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, *APG News*
Source(s): <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com>; <http://dictionary.reference.com>

ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

USAASC

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center




The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center supports the Army’s acquisition mission through personnel development systems and management support capabilities, enabling effective and efficient equipping of the nation’s forces while maintaining an internal culture of constant organizational improvement.

USAASC is part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA) (ALT)).

Its core functions and competencies include providing:

- Institutional management of the Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) and the Army Acquisition Workforce including career management and workforce development.
- Customer service and support to the Program Executive Offices (PEO) in the areas of human resources, resource management (manpower and budget), program structure, and acquisition information management.
- Subject matter expertise and analytical support regarding acquisition issues and initiatives to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) and various DOD elements.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, *APG News*
Source(s): <http://asc.army.mil>; <https://en.wikipedia.org>



APG CATCH-A-POACHER PROGRAM

A wide variety of wildlife call Aberdeen Proving Ground home. The APG Conservation Law Enforcement Branch is asking you to be a partner in protecting and preserving the natural resources here on post. If you see or have knowledge of poaching or illegal activity involving wildlife or natural resources, you can use the SUBMIT-A-TIP hotline to anonymously provide information to catch a poacher.

Call the SUBMIT-A-TIP “HOTLINE” at 410-306-4673.
Emergencies or violations in progress should always be reported via 911.

When reporting poaching or illegal activity involving wildlife or natural resources on APG, please take note of the information listed in the form below.

Name/Description/Address of the Poacher
Location/Days/Times & Type of Poaching
Vehicle/Vessel Description or Registration #

You can also cut out this completed SUBMIT-A-TIP form and mail it to: 2200 Aberdeen Blvd. APG, MD 21005

Play teaches youth team-building, communication skills

Continued from Page 1

well as miming and stage makeup workshops for the children, and a workshop for youth center staff about how to use theater exercises to help connect with and focus students.

“They incorporated getting to know each other; they made sure the kids introduced themselves, and they used sound and music as a way to help the kids remember their lines and parts,” Womack said.

The MCT version of the play, which is based on the beloved characters in J.M. Barrie’s eponymous novel, “Peter Pan,” tells the story of Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and the rascally Lost Boys’ adventures in Neverland with humor, music and an added lesson about celebrating differences and working together.

MTC Tour director and actor Emma Harr explained that in the play, Captain Hook’s first mate, Mr. Smee, “decides he doesn’t want to be this evil, villain pirate anymore, and starts to help Peter Pan.” She added that each MCT production ends with a moral to the story.

Harr and co-director Erica Diedrich played Tick-Tock Croc and Smee, respectively, and said they used their roles to help the children learn their lines, help each other and, at times, improvise.

“We’re always conscious of what’s going on, so if they [the children] need help, we’ll step in and help them. But



Peter Pan, played by Mara Benise-Kissell, center, ‘hooks’ Tinker Bell, played by Kaydence Weaver, right, as the Darling children, played by Scott Benise-Kissell, Jenica Benise-Kissell and Jaya Coats, wait for Peter to take them to Neverland.

usually by the time we get to show day, they’ve got it down,” Harr said.

She said programs like MCT are significant because the attention and funding arts education receives is minimal compared to funds given to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM – related projects.

“It [art] is the one discipline that is genuinely about what it is to be a human being,” Harr said. “It’s about sharing the human experience. Everybody goes

home and turns on the TV, or reads a book, or wants to go see a movie, or sees a show or listens to music.”

Additionally, Harr said the week-long residency seeks to teach team-building, self-discipline and responsibility and improve communication skills.

“It’s not about making them all want to be performers when they grow up,” Harr said. “The goal is to give them something artistic that is going to teach them life skills as well.”

Jessica Pizarro, said her daughter Tatyana Sanchez, who played Tiger Lily, asked her if she could audition for the play weeks ago. Pizarro said she was a bit hesitant at first to place her daughter in another extracurricular activity.

“She’s always liked theater, but I’ve always had her in sports,” Pizarro said, adding that she’s glad she allowed the audition, because the experience has given her daughter a passion to pursue more acting opportunities in the future.

“She loves acting; she’s always been dramatic,” Pizarro added.

Nancy McGugin, mother of Madason McGugin who played Cecco, the pirate, said she was initially surprised her daughter wanted to audition for the play because their family lives off post, and Madason does not attend the youth center.

“She doesn’t know these kids,” McGugin said, adding that the acting workshop gave her daughter a chance to come out of her shell and make new friends.

“I told her I was very proud of her for sticking it out and doing it,” McGugin said.

For more information about SKIES Unlimited, contact Shirelle Womack at 410-278-4589, or email at shirelle.j.womack.naf@mail.mil. For information about Missoula Children’s Theatre, visit www.mctinc.org.

Students learn about impact of choices, future career options

Continued from Page 1

business, technology and magnet programs for HCC, said he the hopes the conference will impact them not just in “school, but in life.” A student’s junior year of high school is a critical time, he said, because it is when he or she starts making decisions about colleges and majors.

“The event gave eleventh grade students a glimpse into their future and the opportunities that Harford County can offer at the conclusion of their schooling or college,” Limpert said.

He said that while the conference gives students the opportunity to attend a professional conference on a college campus it also shows them how the choices they make now can negatively or positively impact them in the future.

In the “Social Media and Employment Backgrounds” workshop, for example, students were shown how what they post on social media today can hurt them when they are looking for a job. They were also taught about security clearances, an important requirement for those hoping to obtain a government job after college.

During a networking session, Nicole McKew, a Strategic Engagements and Outreach Coordinator with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, ECBC, talked to students about internships with the Army Education Outreach Program, or AEOP, and the innovative research that goes

on at ECBC.

McKew said her exhibit had been “very busy” all day.

“I got a lot of good, career-driven questions,” she said. “A lot of students asked me what I did to get where I am.”

Former ECBC civilian Lester Hitch, led a workshop on 3-D printing. He brought two 3-D printers with him to demonstrate the cutting edge technology. Hitch said 3-D printing has been used to create homes, food and even artificial organs.

“3-D printing is an idea creator, it is a spark to the next great thing,” Hitch said.

Anthony Kennard, a C. Milton Wright High School student, said the 3-D printing workshop was a highlight of his day. Kennard is enrolled in the Project Lead the Way, a STEM program focused on engineering.

“I think 3-D printing is amazing, it will be big in the future,” he said.

Stacey Lambert, Mikale Brutus and Anthony Lambert with the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, led a presentation called “What’s in Your Future” that focused on selecting a major and a career.

Stacey Lambert encouraged students to choose careers based on their needs and desires. She said that high school juniors often face pressure from parents, teachers and peers to pick a particular career that might not be the right fit for them.



Nicole McKew, with the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, right, shows Lexie Penman, a Biomedical Sciences Program student from Bel Air High School, an object with DeconGel during the annual Futures11 conference at Harford Community College March 30.

“I tell them you just need the drive and motivation to do your best,” she said. “You don’t have to try to be someone else.”

Presenters also talked about the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation, or SMART, Scholarship for Service Program established through the Department of Defense to support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in STEM disciplines.

Charity Baggett a contractor with CERDEC Outreach Development, led the STEM Challenge: Creative Problem Solving workshop during which, students had 10 minutes to form teams to construct a robotic arm. In addition, CERDEC engineers John Suarez, Alexis Moy and Michael Zalewski discussed their work and offered insight into the

creative process.

“The students said the project was challenging and they enjoyed the workshop,” Baggett said.

Kaylee Stanpone, a Bel Air High School Biomedical Sciences Program student, said she planned to apply for an AEOP internship.

“I am interested in biology and microbiology,” she said. “I think it would help me decide what I want to do.”

Lexie Penman, another student in the Biomedical Sciences Program student, called the event “helpful,” and said she’d like a career in environmental science.

“Futures11 has helped me make up my mind more [about] what I want to do,” she said. “I would definitely consider a career at APG.”

Women’s program highlights female ‘pioneers’

Continued from Page 1

Director James Amato and APG Garrison Commander Col. James E. Davis.

The guest speaker, Lisha H. Adams, the executive deputy to the commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Gen. Dennis L. Via, shared her knowledge and insight about challenges facing women in the workplace. She addressed challenges facing women such as the “glass ceiling,” and stereotyping, and encouraged listeners to focus on important conditions and choices such as attitude, professional and personal growth and serving others. She stressed the importance – and difficulties – of tending to career growth and parenthood as well as other barriers to advancement and she encouraged listeners to maintain positive attitudes while seeking professional growth. Most important, she said was the need for women to share their knowledge with others.

“It shouldn’t always be about ‘me,’” she said. “Success in life has nothing to do with what you do for yourself; it’s what you do for others.”

Adam’s presentation was sprinkled with quotes from famous persons, such as Eleanor Roosevelt, and she closed with the message from the poem, “Don’t Quit,” emphasizing its closing verse: “It’s when things seem worse that you must not quit.”

Mistress of ceremonies, Nnenna

“It shouldn’t always be about ‘me.’ Success in life has nothing to do with what you do for yourself; it’s what you do for others.”

Lisha H. Adams

Army Materiel Command Executive Deputy to the Commanding General

Ewing of AMSAA thanked Adams for her words of wisdom and noted that as gratitude for her participation in the observance, a donation was made in her name to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Several APG women participated in a skit profiling famous women pioneers such as Judy Hart, the National Park Founding Superintendent of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park and Women’s Rights National Historical Park. Hart is the 2016 National Women’s History Month honoree.

Amato thanked all for attending and encouraged listeners to continue the fight against social conventions such as those highlighted in the skit.

“Their lives inspired girls and women to achieve their full potential,” he said.

The program included the singing of the national anthem by Dr. Wanda

Scott of CECOM and the invocation by Garrison Chaplain Capt. Jonathan Ginder.

During a break between morning and afternoon sessions, APG senior executives Rhonda Diaz, CHRA; Dr. Laurel Allender, Army Research Laboratory; Suzanne Milchling, AMSAA deputy director; Mary Brown, PEO C3T; and Maria Esparraguera, the former CECOM counselor now with the Department of the Army Office of the Judge Advocate General hosted a luncheon with Adams and other APG women.

The event training sessions included Business Writing, Leading Change, Microsoft Word 2013, Financial Management, Training on Training and VA Disability Compensation 101.

Attendees and organizers said they were pleased with the proceedings.

Organizer Teresa Rudd of ECBC, said the hope was that attendees would

gather the information and share it with their coworkers.

“We need to look around us and help others as we’re advancing. Take something back to them and let’s all share it with each other,” she said.

Organizer Tiffany Cervantes of CERDEC, said she thought the day went perfectly and the speaker was outstanding.

“It’s important to have reminders of how far we’ve come as well as how much further we can go,” she said.

“I enjoyed her focus on attitude,” added Nnenna Ewing. “I hope people take away a sense of self-improvement and sharing among themselves.”

Yvette Yarbourn a CECOM procurement analyst with ACC-APG said she thought the speaker and overall program was “excellent.”

“I appreciated the subjects they presented and the topics she touched on and I’m looking to coming back next year,” she said.

Allison Bruno with the Army Public Health Center called it a “wonderful program,” noting that she was there for the first of the 26 observances.

“It’s exciting to see how the program has developed over the years,” she said. “Most important, this is an opportunity to get out and network with other women on the installation working in a variety of different fields. It’s just been a wonderful day.”

SHARP training tool geared toward commanders

Continued from Page 1

sively integrating it into the PL 300, Military Leadership course.

With the ELITE Lite counseling trainer, the Army “wanted to get a more standardized practical exercise experience,” said Maj. Greg Pavlichko, chief of the Army’s Games for Training program at the Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

“So if you and I are in class together and we are discussing counseling or SHARP, and we are then asked to (role play) -- I’m the person with bad behavior and you are the leader that is asked to counsel me, well maybe I don’t care, maybe I’m a terrible actor, maybe I’m just not into it,” he said. “So your experience is very dependent on the student population and basically how into it they are.”

The ELITE-SHARP CTT takes advantage of the successes of the ELITE Lite counseling tool in that it provides a standardized avatar for students to interact with and gives everyone the same experience every time. Additionally, Pavlichko said, like with the counseling tool, the ELITE-SHARP CTT diverges from the “old paradigm” of training, which involves a prepackaged slide deck, videos and classroom discussion, and instead provides younger officers with something they are more familiar with – gaming.

“So, we’re getting away from non-professional role players and just getting beaten to death with slide shows, and making it more engaging,” Pavlichko said. “Plus, for a lot of younger people, gaming is kind of innate and organic to them, so they understand it right away. The predominance of Soldiers coming into the Army at this point have a pretty robust gaming experience behind them.”

SHARP-SPECIFIC TOOLS

In September 2014, the Army’s Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention Management Office in Washington requested that the ELITE counseling tool be further developed into a SHARP-specific tool to better prepare command teams for dealing with sexual assaults and harassment in the ranks. The ELITE-SHARP CTT program was developed to meet that need.

Unlike traditional slide show-based training, the ELITE-SHARP CTT game provides command teams with animated scenarios regarding sexual assault and harassment that illustrate both the right way and the wrong way to handle such situations, and then moves into an interactive portion where commanders meet face-to-face with virtual Soldiers who have been victims of a sexual assault or sexual harassment.

“We hear feedback that using slide shows for training is very ineffective,” said Monique Ferrell, director of the Army SHARP Program. “This is an avatar-based platform. When a new commander takes command of a unit, by regulation there is a requirement for them to meet with their SHARP professional, their SARC, within the first 30 days. What this tool does, the ELITE-SHARP CTT, is it facilitates that discussion between the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and the commander.”

Within the ELITE-SHARP CTT game, commanders learn of a sexual assault or harassment issue, and then have to figure out the best way to handle the situation. That usually starts with contacting their command’s own SARC.

The ELITE-SHARP CTT is meant to help commanders understand the right way to deal with sexual assaults in their commands, so they know how best to help victims, and also know how not to make the mistakes that could later on damage prosecution efforts, said



U.S. Army illustration
A screen shot from the Army’s newest training game, the ELITE-SHARP Command Team Trainer. The new game will debut on the Army’s MILGAMING website, April 1, 2016. It is an interactive videogame designed to help company, battalion and brigade commanders better understand the right way to process a sexual assault or harassment complaint in their ranks.

Pavlichko.

He said early on that the Army’s SHARP office had realized “a lot of issues that were happening with sexual assault and the response was that command teams, especially at the company level, didn’t understand what the ‘golden rules’ were, or what they were supposed to do with a sexual assault or harassment report, from a policy standpoint.

“So you’d have an incident, the commander and first sergeant would respond to the incident in a way that was not in accordance with policy or law, and then you’d have a breakdown with the court case and things would get thrown out because they didn’t do the right things,” Pavlichko said. “Or they would kind of do what they thought was right, but not necessarily what the law or Army policy said you need to do.”

With the ELITE-SHARP CTT, those commanders will learn how to deal with sexual assaults and response the right way, the first time.

SHARP VIGNETTES

Tim Wansbury, with the Army Research Laboratory, helped develop the game for the Army. He said the ELITE-SHARP CTT kicks off by showing game players two different vignettes that play out in animation. First, a sexual assault happens in the barracks at an installation, and the command team has to respond. The second, he said, involves sexual harassment in the motor pool.

“There is a noncommissioned officer in the motor pool who is using foul language or making inappropriate statements,” he said. “It’s clearly behavior we wouldn’t expect in the workplace.”

Both of those scenarios are illustrated with three animated segments each: one to show how a command team could handle it correctly, one to show how a command team might really mess things up, and one that contrasts the two to illustrate the difference.

After commanders watch the animated vignettes that contrast the right and wrong way to handle both a sexual assault and a sexual harassment situation, they move into the interactive portion of the ELITE-SHARP CTT game, which features virtual avatars that commanders are meant to interact with.

These practice exercises include two scenarios as well: one where a Soldier is the victim of sexual assault, and one where a Soldier is sexually harassed by another Soldier. In the latter case, the commander doing the training gets to interact with both the victim and the alleged perpetrator of the sexual harassment.

Wansbury was heavily involved in development of the ELITE-SHARP CTT, though the primary game developers were at the University of South-

ern California’s Institute for Creative Technologies. He concedes that neither himself, nor the engineers, programmers, or computer scientists involved in game development are SHARP professionals. He said game development for the ELITE-SHARP CTT involved more than just programming – it involved more than half a year of research for development of the game’s content.

“We relied on Army SHARP professionals, both at the Army SHARP program management office in Washington, and at the Army SHARP Academy,” Wansbury said. “Game development took about 12 months. About six to seven months was spent identifying and developing the specific training content that was included in the application.”

Pavlichko said research also included interviews with commanders who had SHARP incidents occur within their commands in the past.

On March 21, the game received final approval to be used as an official Army training tool, and was approved for release on April 1.

While Soldiers can go to the Army’s military gaming website to download the game and play it on their own computer, Pavlichko said that’s not really where the game will get the most use. He said his team is working to get the game implemented as part of the curriculum at school houses across the Army.

“Most Soldiers will see it has been installed on some kind of Army computer and see it in the context of some type of course of instruction,” Pavlichko said.

Soldiers who have in the past been part of command teams, but who have been out of the command environment due to another assignment, might also use the ELITE-SHARP CTT as a “refresher,” Pavlichko said, before returning to a follow-on command assignment. It would be those Soldiers who download the game on their own computers to get that refresher course.

Completing the ELITE-SHARP CTT training takes about 90-minutes, Pavlichko said.

ELITE-SHARP POST

The ELITE environment didn’t start out as a trainer for SHARP. It was actually developed as part of an effort to provide a “performance counseling” tool to officers in the U.S. Navy. The Army liked what they saw of the program, and developed it for their own use as a counseling tool, calling it ELITE, short for “Emergent Leader Immersive Training Environment.”

But Wansbury said that system had a large overhead – it required lots of gear, lots of computers and lots of computing power. It wasn’t portable, and it was expensive.

At the request of the Army, the Insti-

tute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California was able to “shrink-wrap the goodness of ELITE into a laptop,” Wansbury said. And the end product was dubbed “ELITE Lite.”

The ELITE Lite counseling tool is actually on the Army’s MILGAMING website now, and has been for some time. It was the success of the ELITE Lite counseling tool that spurred the Army’s SHARP office to request it be further developed as a SHARP training tool, and that’s how the ELITE-SHARP CTT was developed.

Now, the same team that developed ELITE-SHARP CTT is developing another game, called the ELITE-SHARP Prevention & Outreach Simulation Trainer, or ELITE-SHARP POST, that will be used to train SHARP professionals on how to better interact with commanders to build a successful prevention program and effective outreach mission.

While the aim of ELITE-SHARP CTT is to teach commanders to deal with sexual assaults and sexual harassment after they happen, ELITE-SHARP POST will help SHARP professionals hone their skills at preventing those things from happening in the first place.

The ELITE-SHARP POST application will “give our SARCs and VAs the tools they need to help develop their prevention programs, both at the installation level, as well as with interacting with their local communities,” Ferrell said.

Wansbury said ELITE-SHARP POST development will mirror development of the ELITE-SHARP CTT game, will use the same platform, and will provide “upfront instruction, visual examples using animated vignettes on what good practices are and not so good practices, and then we will have a series of practice exercise where the students will be able to apply their new knowledge and develop some skills and most importantly the confidence that they will need to perform these tasks when they perform their jobs.”

It’s expected that ELITE-SHARP POST will become available in about a year, and will also be available on the Army’s MILGAMING website, right alongside the ELITE-SHARP CTT game and the ELITE Lite Counseling tool.

MILGAMING FUTURE

Pavlichko said the future of the ELITE platform, which now serves two purposes, counseling training and SHARP training, might in the future become more interactive through the introduction of artificial intelligence.

“Instead of selecting a response from three or four responses, it’s more of a robust AI you can have a natural conversation with, so if I’m counseling somebody, instead of picking a response I can speak into the microphone and have a more natural conversation with the digital avatar,” he said.

Such technology has already been demonstrated in the past, but he said to get it into the ELITE software platform, the Army must develop a requirement for it and also secure the resources needed to develop it.

“It takes time to build momentum for new technologies,” he said. “It takes senior leaders seeing these things and then starting to understand the potential.”

In the past, he said, gaming was “almost a four-letter word” within the Army’s training community.

“Games are fun. Training is not supposed to be fun,” he said, paraphrasing sentiments he found to be coming from the field. “But then after enough senior leaders see the capability, they see its potential, they understand it’s potential. They see Soldiers using it and start to see the results of the capability – now with gaming, everybody wants it.”



Did You Know ?

The Declaration of Independence was loosely based on the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence from British rule.

Signed on April 6, 1320, the declaration inspired many of the signers of the American document. Today, in observance of the nation's Scottish forefathers and the thousands of immigrants who built America, the United States observes National Tartan Day which celebrates Scottish heritage and the distinct tartan pattern So, what is tartan? Tartan is a pattern consisting of crisscrossed horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colors. Referred to as “plaid” in the United States, Tartan is particularly associated with Scottish kilts which almost always have tartan patterns.

Several states in the U.S. observe National Tartan Day, April 6 and a few, like New York, set aside an entire Tartan Week to honor those of Scottish and Scottish-Irish heritage.

New York City hosts the largest events on the East Coast with the 18th Annual Tartan Day parade set for Saturday, April 9. New York’s Tartan Week runs April 6 -10. In Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C., the National Capitol Tartan Day Committee will host a Symposium and Congressional Reception Thursday, April 14 in the Rayburn House Office Building foyer. For more information or to RSVP go to the website www.dctartanday.org or send your name, mailing address, email address, phone number and a list attendees to Kathy Garrity, President National Capital Tartan Day Committee, 9261 Birchwood Court, Manassas, VA 20110.

In Boston, Massachusetts, Tartan Week, held April 4-10, will feature lots of restaurant specials highlighted by The British Society Tartan Day Celebration, a musical event featuring award-winning pipers, folk singers and musicians.

The Los Angeles, California Tartan Gala Celebration, hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Los Angeles, will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, April 9. The oldest and largest festival on the West Coast is held in San Diego’s Balboa Park. Hosted by the city’s six fraternal Scottish organizations, it involves participants from throughout Southern California.

Arbroath & U.S. declarations

Arbroath Abbey hosted the signing of the Scottish Declaration of Independence, April 6, 1320. The document declared solidarity and support to Robert the Bruce, whom the pope had excommunicated. Almost half of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent and the American Declaration of Independence was, in fact, modelled on this particular document.

The U.S. Senate Resolution on National Tartan Day was passed March 20, 1998. From that point onward, National Tartan Day was designated as a day for all Americans, particularly those of Scottish descent, to celebrate Scottish heritage on April 6 each year.



By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

Source(s): <http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com/tartanDay/index.html>; www.standrewsla.org; <http://www.charitableirishsociety.org/event-2208149>; <http://dctartanday.org/>; <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/national-tartan-day>

APG SNAPSHOT

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Talk to your child
about *Alcohol*

ASAP SHOWS TEENS DANGERS OF ALCOHOL USE

Army Substance Abuse Program Prevention Coordinator Cindy Scott, left, looks on as 7th-grader DeShae Garner, 13, tries to maneuver her way up 'stairs' while wearing "drunk goggles" during the ASAP Alcohol Awareness Month info session for teens at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center April 1.

During the info session, ASAP personnel introduced the 2016 Alcohol Awareness Month theme that encourages conversations between youth and parents about alcohol. ASAP's Cindy Scott and Lamont Coger distributed the pamphlet, "Making a Difference," by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other materials and let teens try to maneuver stationary obstacles while wearing drunk goggles. "We want them to have the facts in hand, and not just go by what we say," Scott said. "Most kids don't want ask their parents about alcohol and the feedback we get is that they feel more informed after reading this material."

ASAP will host several events during April, which is Alcohol Awareness Month. For more information, check the APG News or contact Scott at cynthia.m.scott.civ@mail.mil or 410-278-4013.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson, APG News



APG YOUTH ESCAPE TO NEVERLAND

More than 30 APG youth performed the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Peter and Wendy" at the Myer Auditorium in APG North (Aberdeen) April 2.

(Clockwise, from left)

From left, Peter Pan, played by Mara Benise-Kissell, points an accusatory finger toward the villainous Captain Hook, played by Abygail Belanger, center, Mr. Smee, played by tour director Erica Diederich and another pirate, played by Colin Merritt.

"Peter and Wendy" co-director Emma Harr performs as the sly Tic Toc Croc.

Alexandra Eure as Mrs. Darling cries for her lost children in the Missoula Children's Theatre stage production of "Peter and Wendy" at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen) April 2.

Photos by Stacy Smith, APG News



See more photos from events across
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>